THE SUNDAY TIMES
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MONEY OFF VOUCHER, PAGE 3

FOUR WEDDINGS TO WIN

The dress, the rings and the Caribbean honeymoon – four couples can win it all

Details and today's token in Weekend, page 21

MAGAZINE

Sigourney Weaver's decent exposure, page 22

PLUS
Summer '95: 44-page men's fashion supplement

30P

THE TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 8 1995

No. 65,236

Inquiry sought after inquest verdict

Marchioness victims 'killed unlawfully'

By Edward Gorman and Richard Ford

THE Government faced renewed calls last night for a public inquiry into the *Marchioness* pleasure boat disaster after an inquest jury found that the 51 victims had been unlawfully killed.

The jury also issued a list of recommendations aimed at preventing a repeat of the tragedy that resulted when the *Marchioness* and the dredger *Bowbelle* collided in August 1989.

They reached their conclusions at the end of an inquest that lasted four weeks and heard from 118 witnesses. Dr John Burton, the West London coroner, will now send a report to the Lord Chancellor and the Home Office. The Crown Prosecution Service will also study the report to see whether criminal charges should be brought against Douglas Henderson, the master of the *Bowbelle*, other crew members or staff of South Coast Shipping, the company that owns the dredger.

Mr Henderson has twice been tried for endangering life, but in each case the jury failed to reach a verdict. He cannot be charged with the same offence again, but Mr Henderson and others could be charged with unlawful killing or manslaughter if the CPS find new evidence it has not previously considered.

Dr Burton told the jury that they could not consider a verdict of unlawful killing in relation to Mr Henderson because of the results of his trials, and in returning their verdict, the jurors alluded to the difficulties that had caused them, saying: "We have been faced with problems in trying to decide on a verdict which either complies or conflicts with previous court judgments. We hope that future coroner's juries will not be put in this position."

Henderson: cleared after two trials

Last night South Coast Shipping emphasised that neither it nor the master had been incriminated. Tim Taylor, for the company, said: "The verdict of unlawful killing cannot and does not relate to South Coast Shipping or Captain Henderson. Section 16 of the Coroners' Act 1988 prevents the jury from making such a finding, and the Coroner directed the jury to that effect."

The jury's verdict was greeted with gasps by relatives of the victims, who claim they have been vindicated after a five-year battle to get the inquest held. Margaret Lockwood Croft, whose 26-year-old son was among the dead, said "We are very pleased, to say the least ... our struggle has been well worth it."

Louise Christian, solicitor for the families, said the outcome underlined that someone should have been prosecuted successfully for their part in the disaster. "The Crown Prosecution Service bungled this atter and bungled it from the outset," she said. "We'd like to call on the CPS to reconsider this matter even at this late stage."

CPS officials held an urgent meeting as soon as the verdict was announced and a spokeswoman said it would call for a transcript to see if further action was needed.

Ms Christian said that the *Bowbelle* had been like a huge juggernaut steaming down the motorway at 100mph with obscured vision and no rear view mirror. She said the lookout on the vessel was no lookout at all; the two men on the bow were there simply to pull up the anchor.

Ms Christian added that while the inquest had uncovered a lot of new material, there were still many important areas that needed investigation. Her call for a public inquiry was echoed by the Labour party, which said an urgent investigation should be held to examine the safety lessons that could be learnt.

In their letter to the coroner, the jury recommended:

- All passenger launches should be equipped immediately with appropriate emergency exits and lighting;
- River regulations should be more strictly enforced and on-the-spot-fines considered;
- All crew memgbers on commercial passenger vessels should learn first aid;
- All crew on passenger launches should wear life jackets;
- River bank life-saving facilities should be installed urgently;
- River police vessels should be better able to help with rescues;
- Vessels of over 40 metres should install at least one motorised lifeboat and post a trained lookout on the foc's'le;
- Crews should undergo medicals and skippers over 60 should face a competence test;
- Crew members should have their jobs clearly defined;
- Maximum blood-alcohol levels for seamen should be laid down by law and all crews should be breathalysed after an accident;
- Senior crew should be conversant with international radio procedure.

Families vindicated, page 3

MARC ASPLAND

Master Oats and his stable lad, Sean Ellis, in Upper Lambourn yesterday

Punters play for £150m stakes

By Richard Evans and Kate Alderson

MASTER OATS enters the Grand National as the firm favourite with the punters on a day that will swell into an unprecedented gambling extravaganza as an estimated £150 million is wagered on the national lottery, two FA Cup semi-finals and the US Masters golf tournament.

"It will be the biggest gambling time in British history because £75 million will be bet on the Grand National, £25 million on the football and golf, and about £50 million on the lottery," Mike Dillon, of Ladbrokes, Britain's biggest bookmakers, said.

"Everyone has been worried about the effect of the lottery on horse-race betting, but it has been negligible and we believe the Grand National could have a negative effect on the lottery because people like to pit their wits against the bookmakers," he said.

Full colours guide to the National, page 39

A win at Aintree would make Master Oats, a nine-year-old gelding and the winner of last month's Cheltenham Gold Cup, only the second horse to claim that double within the same season. Golden Miller did it in 1934.

Master Oats, trained by Kim Bailey and ridden by Norman Williamson, is a horse that loves a wet track. Although he started the week as the favourite, the gelding slipped to second place in the betting behind Young Hustler on Thursday after several days of sunshine at the Aintree course made the going firm.

National card, page 38
Portrait, page 42
Master Oats on top, page 44
Spread betting, Weekend

Ingram 'treated like an animal'

From Ben Macintyre in Jackson, Georgia

LAWYERS for Nicholas Ingram, the British-born murderer, planned to file a law suit against the Georgia prison authorities yesterday, claiming the condemned man was treated "like an animal". He was shaved for execution in the electric chair nearly half an hour after a temporary 24-hour stay of execution was granted on Thursday night.

The move came just hours before Ingram was due to die in the electric chair and represents the latest desperate legal attempt to stave off the execution.

Just one hour before Ingram was due to die on Thursday night, Judge Horace Ward of Georgia's federal district court added just one day to the life of Ingram, 31, while he considered whether to reject an appeal or grant a new hearing in the case.

The law suit charges the prison with contempt of court on the grounds that the stay of execution ordered by Judge Ward should have been implemented immediately. Ingram's British-born lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, claims that the stay of execution was granted at 5.55 local time, but that prison guards began shaving Ingram's head and right leg at 6.20.

The condemned man was not told that his life has been temporarily spared until 6.35, the suit alleges. Ingram's head was shaved with electric shears and then an electric razor. "They treated me like an animal and said 'it's just a job'," Ingram is reported as saying in the affidavit.

Judge Ward, the first black man to be appointed to a Georgia federal court, was expected to rule on both that appeal and the latest law suit.

Edge of death, page 11
Simon Jenkins, page 18

£3 off a WH Smith CD
Weekend, page 6

Treasures that rewrite Ancient Chinese history
page 5

Simon Jenkins on the barbaric cult of execution
page 18

Spain bans holiday family

A family living in the Cotswolds were deported from the Canary Islands without setting foot on the beach because they have Canadian passports. Marie-Rose Mociornitza, 28, who fled Ceausescu's Romania, her son and mother were ordered to get back on their plane because of Spain's "fish war" with Canada.......Page 15

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Fearful Tories give Major a shield after hammering in Scottish poll

By Philip Webster, Gillian Bowditch and Jill Sherman

A CABINET effort to snuff out any talk of a challenge to John Major's leadership was spearheaded by Douglas Hurd yesterday, as party disunity was blamed for the Conservative rout in the Scottish elections.

Senior ministers threw a guard around the Prime Minister amid fears and expectations that the Tory wipeout in Scotland will be followed by an equally bad, and potentially perilous, result in the local poll in England and Wales less than a month from now.

In their worst drubbing in Scotland, only 81 Conservative councillors were elected out of a total of more than 1,100. The Tories finished in fourth place behind Labour, the Scottish National Party and the Liberal Democrats.

The Foreign Secretary said that after "another bleak Friday morning" the Conservatives must not allow the media to lure them into "chatter about the leadership". Mr Major was an admirable Prime Minister who was more popular than the party. "Against these two facts the case for change collapses," Mr Hurd said in Harrogate.

His decision to pre-empt the leadership question was deliberate. Ministers have long expected the double blow of the Scottish and local English elections inevitably to result in a repeat of the feverish debate about Mr Major that went on for much of last year. It is understood that a similar offensive will be mounted after the polls on May 4, with Cabinet ministers from the Right and Left joining forces to bolster Mr Major against internal assault.

Ian Lang, the Scottish Secretary, said yesterday that the results reflected mid-term malaise with the Government rather than personal hostility towards the Prime Minister, a theme that is being increasingly echoed by his colleagues.

But after Labour's triumph north of the border saw Tony Blair's new-look party take control of 20 of the 29 new all-purpose authorities, and left the Conservatives in control of none of them, Mr Major and other ministers led warnings that Tory feuding could again cost them dear in May.

Tory MPs fear they might lose up to 1,500 seats. If so the blandishments of Cabinet ministers are unlikely to prevent another serious bout of wrangling among Tory MPs over whether Mr Major is the leader to bring the party back from the electoral abyss.

He faced a call last night to bring the nine Euro-rebels back into the fold. Sir George Gardiner, a leading member of the influential backbench 1922 Committee, said: "It is not enough to keep Tory MPs without the Whip as laid-on

Continued on Page 2, col 1

Tories abandoned, page 10
Anne McElvoy, page 18
Leading article, page 19

Businessman makes £38m

A St Helens businessman made £38 million yesterday when he floated his electronics company on the stock market. Barry Houghton, aged 47, founded Rainford, a mobile phone equipment manufacturer, 24 years ago with £1,500 he raised from the sale of his house.

The company, which started out in a disused clay pipe factory, now employs 720 and has sales of more than £60 million a year..... Page 23

Dollar plunge

The dollar plunged to a new post-war low against the yen, having slumped by more than 3.5 per cent in the past week, despite intervention by the Bank of Japan. Finance ministers and central bankers are coming under pressure to halt the slide.................. Page 23

Crew parachute to safety as helicopter crashes

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

FOUR crewmen parachuted to safety from a naval helicopter on a test flight above Devon yesterday in what is thought to be the first successful escape of its kind.

Two pilots and two test engineers were putting the Anglo-Italian EH 101 helicopter through a series of manoeuvres at around 12,000ft when the transmission is believed to have failed. The captain, Westland test pilot John Dickens, immediately ordered the three crew to jump out of the side door while he attempted to hold it straight and level.

Co-pilot Don MacLaine and engineers Alastair Wood and Geoff Douthwaite leapt out and drifted safely to earth. Captain Dickens abandoned the doomed aircraft just a few hundred feet from the ground. He suffered back injuries because his parachute did not have time to open fully before he hit the ground. Residents of the village of Yarcombe t described him as "a hero" for ensuring that the helicopter avoided houses, a petrol station and a busy restaurant before crashing into a field.

The crashed EH101 was a prototype of the version being prepared for the Royal Navy which has ordered 44 at a cost of £36 million each. The first is due to be delivered next year.

The naval version of the EH101 under test did not have a rear ramp which will be used in army and air force versions to load vehicles and equipment.

It was, therefore, even more dangerous and difficult for the crew to bale out without being struck by the rotor blades or the rear rotor.

Photograph, page 22

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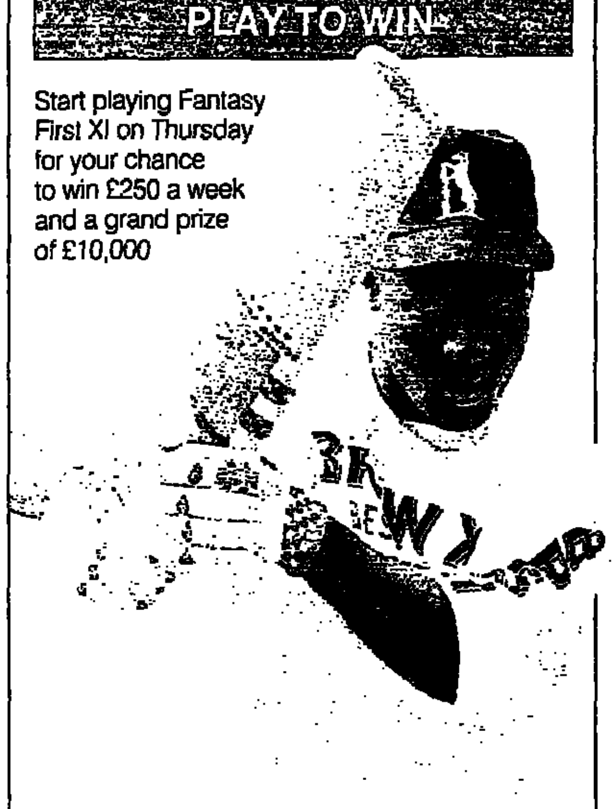

Continue playing the Golf Masters Challenge on Monday for your chance to win a set of golf clubs and a total prize of £25,000

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NEXT WEEK IN THE TIMES

HELLO, WHAT'S THIS?
Richard Cork on Young British Artists at the Saatchi Gallery

SEX AND THE SUIT
Iain R. Webb on femininity and American fashion

36-PAGE HOME SUPPLEMENT
The practical guide to house style '95

FOUR WEDDINGS II
Geoff Brown on *Muriel's Wedding* and other films *of the week*

PLUS:
Tom Bower on the perfect English spy

THE TIMES AT 20p - YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO BE WITHOUT IT

SPORT ON MONDAY

KLINSMANN FOR THE CUP?
Rob Hughes and **Peter Ball** at the FA Cup semi-finals

KING OF THE GREEN
John Hopkins at Augusta watches Faldo seek a third green jacket

GRAND PRIX: ROUND TWO
Can Damon Hill get back on track?
Oliver Holt reports from Argentina

12 PAGES OF REPORTING

Tory candidates drop party name from poll papers

By Arthur Leathley, political correspondent

LOCAL council election candidates are dropping the Conservative Party label from ballot forms in the hope of keeping their seats in next month's voting.

Some Tories, demoralised by their party's national standing, are plumping for titles such as "Horticulturalist", "Concerned councillor" and simply "Retired" as better vote-winners than "Conservative". Many see their occupation as being more enticing at the polling booth than a clear Conservative link.

A mayor in Norfolk who has omitted any Conservative reference said he could not defend government policies. Ten fellow councillors on King's Lynn and West Norfolk Council have shied away from disclosing their allegiance.

They are not alone. As nominations for the May 4 elections closed this week, long-standing Tory candidates throughout the country seeking to hold their seats took similar action.

Bryan Howling, the Norfolk council's Mayor, admitted that he took the decision to drop the Tory name after 20 years as a Conservative councillor because of his dissatisfaction with government policy. "My philosophy hasn't changed, but I have found it increasingly difficult to defend what is happening at Westminster."

Last week, leading local Conservatives in Norfolk called on ministers to stay away from the region and to allow local candidates to campaign on local issues. Mr Howling, who describes himself as Independent, said: "I am afraid there is this tendency to think you can fight a national election through the borough, and I am getting a little concerned at Westminster sticking its nose into the local elections."

The call for ministers to keep away came as John Major and his Cabinet colleagues prepared to add their weight to local election drives throughout the country.

Eight of the 11 Norfolk candidates who have omitted the party from their ballot entry were content to divulge their political affiliation in the last elections in 1991. Four of those said that the omission was because they either forgot or were unaware that they should state their party.

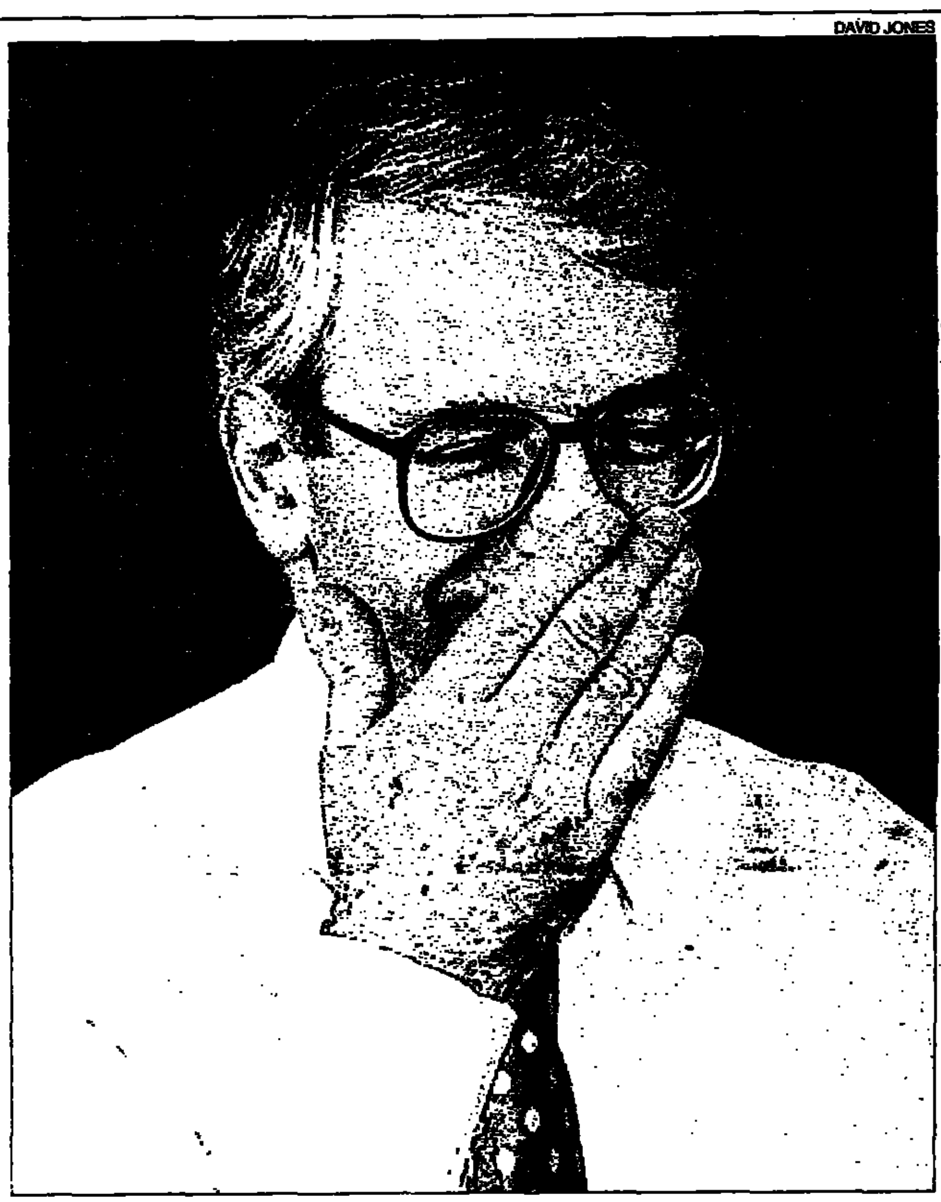
Iris Major, one of the 11 and no relation to the Prime Minister, chose to change her ballot entry from the Conservative candidate in 1991 to "Retired newsagent" in next month's election. Fellow councillor Myrtle Wood switched from Conservative to "Retired".

The Norfolk Conservatives have also failed to oppose seven Labour candidates, including one in a ward which includes the Royal estate at Sandringham.

Labour politicians, jubilant after the party's election successes in Scotland, seized on the move as underlining local disaffection with national politics.

Frank Dobson, Shadow Environment Secretary, said: "Local Tories are ashamed to run under their true colours and they are keeping Cabinet ministers away for fear they will frighten the voters. The Tories are really on the run."

DAVID JONES



Still smiling: Mr Major delighted after bowling out the Somerset cricket captain

Police restrain a demonstrator at Bishop Fox School

School protesters vent their anger on Major's visit

By James Landale, political reporter

JOHN MAJOR was confronted by hundreds of demonstrators protesting against education cuts when he opened a school in Somerset yesterday.

The Prime Minister had to run a gauntlet of more than 250 protesters when he visited Bishop Fox School in Taunton. Teachers and pupils joined Labour activists in demanding an end to local authority capping that could force Somerset schools to sack more than 200 teachers.

Bishop Fox School, which actually opened to pupils last September, faces cuts of some £100,000 and has already served redundancy notices on two teachers. Fifteen staff at the £6 million school, a flagship of the former Tory county council, have written to the Prime Minister protesting at the Government's spending limits.

Many teachers and local councillors who were invited to the opening boycotted the event in protest. At the school, Jane Barrie, chairman of the governors, told Mr Major of parents' anger.

"This [visit] gives us the opportunity to share with you the concern over education cuts," she told the Prime Minister. "Today you will see a new school but please remember that within Somerset a number of schools are over a hundred years old. Bishop Fox does not truly represent the position of education in Somerset." Mr Major responded by defending his education policies.

Chris Clarke, leader of the Liberal Democrat council, said he had the support of David Nicholson, the Conservative MP for Taunton, who would back Somerset council's decision to break its £262 million cap by £2.6 million. Tom King, the former Defence Secretary and MP for nearby Bridgwater, was also said to have given his backing.

The Prime Minister also met local business leaders and opened a new indoor cricket school at Somerset cricket ground.

There he took off his jacket and showed off his bowling. Any despondency about his political fortunes must have lifted when, with his second ball, Mr Major clean bowled Andy Hayhurst, the Somerset captain, with a well pitched googly.

Poll drubbing

Continued from page 1

scapegoats for every disaster. They should be brought back — and fast."

On a visit to Somerset yesterday, the Prime Minister congratulated Labour on its victory. He said: "People expect Conservatives to be united. When it does not happen, people are naturally concerned about it. I think they have sent a fairly clear message on this occasion."

While the nine Tory Euro-rebels and their friends within the parliamentary party were under attack, some MPs also called on Cabinet ministers to stop sniping at each other, a reference to Welsh Secretary John Redwood's apparent criticism of Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary's, hospital policy this week.

Mr Lang led the way in pinning the blame on Westminster divisions. He said: "We must certainly listen to the verdict of the electorate in these local elections. It has been a bad election result for us and it reflects the fact that there is disunity within the Conservative Party."

The elections resulted in 20 councils going to Labour control, three to Independent, three to the SNP, and three were left without overall control. The Liberal Democrats failed to take a council but broke through the 100-seat barrier for the first time with 123 seats. Labour secured 614 seats and the SNP 181. Independent candidates won 153 seats.

Labour was delighted at the outcome, particularly at having widened the gap between themselves and the SNP. But Alex Salmond, the SNP leader, said the record performance had established his party as the second force in Scottish politics. The SNP won Perth and Kinross, where a by-election is imminent. But they failed to make the gains they hoped for in the Central Belt.

Mr Blair said the results were an "absolute disaster" for the Tories, a disappointment for the nationalists and a big victory for Labour.

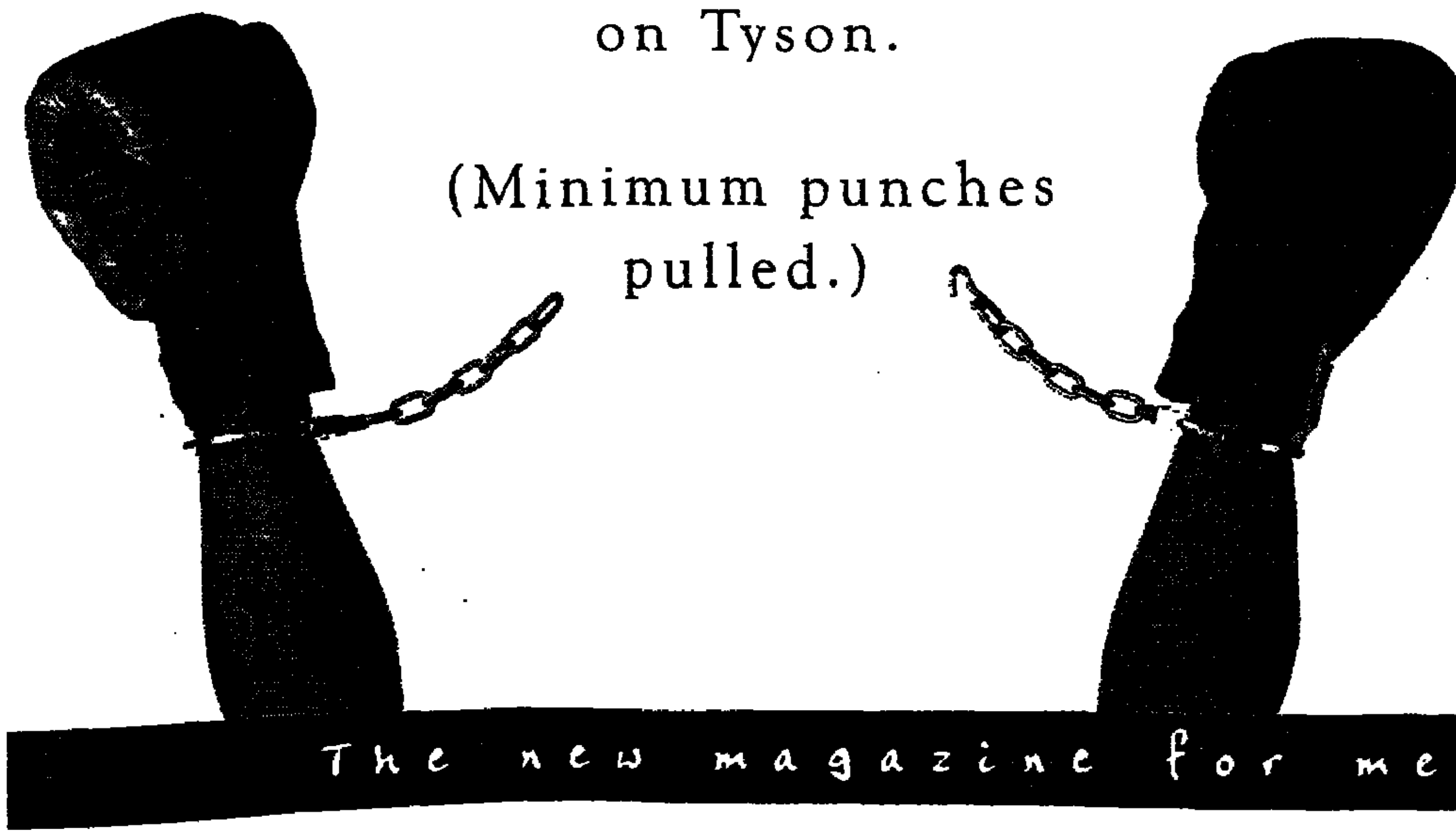
Jim Wallace, the Scottish Liberal Democrat leader, said: "The Scottish Conservatives have experienced a collapse to rival that of Barings Bank. They have totally lost the trust and confidence of the Scottish people. They have run out of steam, run out of ideas — and must now be run out of office, nationally as well as locally."

Tories abandoned, page 10
Anne McElvoy, page 18
Leading article, page 19

MAXIM

on Tyson.

(Minimum punches pulled.)



The gloves came off in our exclusive interview with Mike Tyson about love, sex, prison and the future of boxing.

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OUT NOW

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£50m divorce deal

The Aga Khan is thought to have made a £50 million settlement after divorcing his wife, the former model Sally Croker-Poole, in Switzerland last month. The settlement is believed to include £20 million, plus jewellery worth a further £30 million. The couple were married for 25 years.

Rapist, 15, faces jail

A 15-year-old boy was told by a judge yesterday that he faced a lengthy term in detention for an attack on a 10-year-old girl. The youth, who was 14 at the time of the rape on wasteland near their respective homes in Folkestone, Kent, last July, will be sentenced next Wednesday.

Jewels gardener jailed

Freddie Starr's gardener was jailed yesterday by Reading Crown Court for 15 months for stealing more than £30,000 of jewellery from the comedian and his former wife. Starr had denied Robin Coxhead's claim that his employer had given him the jewellery in return for sexual favours.

Up before the beak

Eric Buckley, 39, of Surbiton, Surrey, was jailed for a year yesterday for handling stolen goods — a parrot taken in a house theft. He insisted the bird was his own, but the jury at Kingston Crown Court thought otherwise when it wolf-whistled its real owner and allowed itself to be tickled.

Wrong size sheep

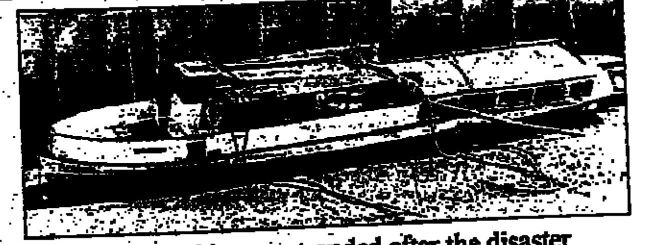
Rail services between Norwich and London were delayed yesterday after lambs wandered on to the line near Manningtree, Essex. British Rail blamed its own mesh fencing alongside the track which keeps out sheep but has holes large enough for a small lamb to get through.

هكذا من الأصل

Families paid high price but never wavered in their battle for inquiry into Marchioness tragedy

Relatives vindicated in long fight for justice

By Andrew Pierce



The *Marchioness*, stranded after the disaster

THE relatives of the victims of the *Marchioness* disaster were vindicated last night at the end of their long battle for justice. They have spent tens of thousands of pounds to try to persuade the authorities to hold a full public inquiry into the sinking on the River Thames almost six years ago.

They were fired by a determination to bring the facts into the open to prevent a repetition of the tragedy. They wanted to highlight what they regarded as inadequacies and inconsistencies in the official report by the marine accident investigation branch.

The families were also driven by a desire to know why some of the victims' hands been removed for fingerprinting to identify them. While 24 bodies were found trapped in the wreckage 27 were recovered from the river — many of them badly decomposed. When some of the parents found out, several years later, some were physically sick. Many of them still have sleepless nights today. They also wanted an explanation as to why they could not see the bodies of their loved ones.

The Marchioness Action Group was formed to press the case for the inquiry, which the Government has resolutely refused. It represents 34 bereaved families and 29 survivors from the birthday party on the *Marchioness* in August 1989 which ended in tragedy when the riverboat was struck by the dredger *Bowbelle*.

Dr Paul Knapman, the Westminster Coroner, adjourned the first inquest in April 1990 after four days when the Director of Public Prosecutions decreed that Douglas Henderson, the skipper of the dredger, was to face criminal charges. It became clear there would be no new inquest.

After Mr Henderson was formally cleared, when two juries failed to reach verdicts, Ivor Glogg, who lost his wife in the incident, spent £20,000 on a private prosecution for manslaughter against South Coast Shipping, the owners of the *Bowbelle*. But he was thwarted when the Director of Public Prosecutions ended the civil action because no new evidence had come to light. The relatives were further incerised when in March 1992 Dr Knapman, responding to the campaign for the inquest to be resumed, described Margaret Lockwood Croft, whose son Shaun died in the disaster, as "unhinged". Four months later the Coroner refused to resume the inquest.

Mrs Lockwood Croft — who gave up her charity work to devote herself to the cause, remortgaged her home and used most of her pension to finance her costs — decided to take the case for a further inquest to the High Court. In June 1994 the Court of Appeal ruled in the relatives' favour.

But the costs of the legal battle had destroyed some of the families' finances. They went to the High Court to try to secure legal aid for the inquest. If they had failed some would have had no legal representation at the hearing.

The decision in March this year by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, to provide £200,000 from the Legal Aid Fund ended the anguish of the relatives. Legal aid is not normally available for inquests. Now the families will press for a full and open public inquiry.

Inquest verdict, page 1

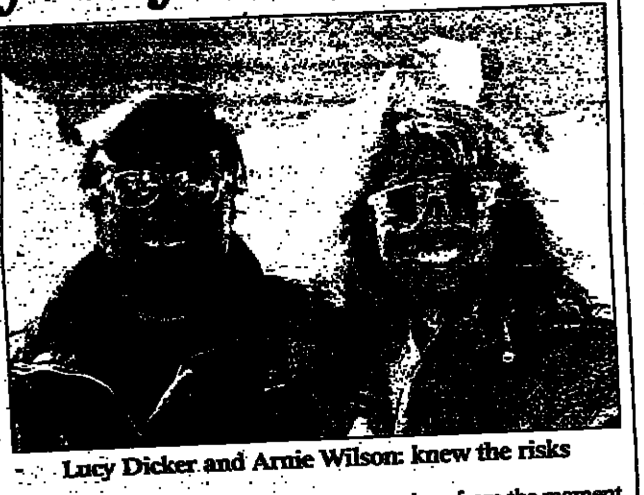
Marathon struggle to uncover the truth

Eileen Dallaglio, Marie Perks and Barbra Davies celebrate the inquest verdict of unlawful killing yesterday

August 20, 1989: *Marchioness* sinks in Thames after collision with *Bowbelle*. 51 die.
August 21: Michael Portillo, junior Transport Minister, announces inquiry by Marine Accident Investigation Bureau. Rejects call for public inquiry.
August 22: new safety measures for Thames, including head counts and emergency briefings.
August 22-26: first inquests opened and adjourned by Dr Paul Knapman, Westminster Coroner.
April 6, 1990: police report on disaster sent to Director of Public Prosecutions.
April 23: inquest resumes.
April 26: DPP says Douglas Henderson, master of *Bowbelle*, to be charged with breach of statutory duty under 1988 Merchant Shipping Act.
April 26: Dr Knapman adjourns inquest pending prosecution of Mr Henderson.
October 31: Mr Justice Nolan rejects High Court application by bereaved husband for leave to seek judicial review of DPP's decision not to bring manslaughter charges.
April 4, 1991: Mr Henderson's trial opens at Old Bailey. He denies endangering life by failing to keep a proper lookout.
April 14: Mr Henderson walks free after jury is unable to reach verdict.
April 14: Mr Henderson released on bail while Crown Prosecution Service considers if he should face second trial.
May 4: CPS announces Mr Henderson to face retrial "in public interest".
July 17: second trial opens at St Albans Crown Court. Mr Henderson denies endangering life.
July 22: Sir David Hopkin, chief stipendiary magistrate, issues summons against South Coast Shipping, owner of *Bowbelle*, and four of the company's managers.
July 31: jury at Mr Henderson's second trial unable to reach a verdict. Mr Justice Boreham enters a not-guilty verdict. Crown says it will no longer pursue the case.
August 15: official report discloses litany of neglect and ignorance by Government and shipping industry for more than 25 years.
September 19: four managers of South Coast Shipping in court accused of unlawful killing in private prosecution brought by Ivor Glogg, husband of one of the victims.
January 6, 1992: four managers remanded on bail.
April 14: *Bowbelle* banned from the Thames.
June 25: private prosecution against four managers dismissed after ruling that there was insufficient evidence to commit them for trial.
August 15: *Bowbelle* sold. Left for Brazil where it sails under name *Tradenet*.
March 10, 1994: Mr Henderson suspended by South Coast Shipping for allegedly being drunk on duty while crewing *Sand Kestrel*, a dredger, from Tyneside to Amsterdam.
April 22: Mr Henderson cleared by firm.
June 11: relatives win right to reopen inquest before new coroner after appeal court upholds complaints that Dr Knapman showed bias.
March 11, 1995: Lord Chancellor grants £200,000 legal aid to families of 51 who died, allowing them to be represented by counsel at resumed inquest.
March 13: new inquest opens at Hammersmith.

Woman dies in the Alps after achieving aim to ski every day for a year

By Andrew Pierce



Lucy Dicker and Arnie Wilson: knew the risks

A WOMAN who visited 13 countries to ski every day for a year fell to her death in the French Alps after achieving her ambition.

Lucy Dicker, 41, fell hundreds of yards on hard-packed snow. Her partner and fellow traveller on the expedition, Arnie Wilson, the skiing correspondent of the *Financial Times*, tried to stop her fall by throwing himself in front of her.

Peter Hardy, the Editor of the Consumer Association's *Good Skiing Guide* and skiing correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph*, suffered serious injuries in the fall on steep untracked terrain at La Grave near Les Deux Alpes. His thigh was broken in five places, his knee was shattered, and he suffered facial injuries.

Yesterday Mr Wilson, 51, told how he was halfway down the curving Trifides couloir, renowned for its difficulty, when the accident happened. La Grave has no marked pistes, no safety patrol and no grooming or avalanche control teams. "It happened so fast but it seemed like slow motion. I saw Lucy and Peter fall and hurtle into the rocks."

Ms Dicker and Mr Hardy became entangled and hit a rock face. "They bounced off. They came tumbling down and I dived at Lucy and caught her. I clung on to her but we were thrown around and we became disentangled after about 300 or 400 feet."

Mr Wilson, who was the architect of the year-long *Financial Times* expedition, which covered 237 resorts and 110,000 miles in 13 countries, said: "I rushed over to her but she was like a rag doll. It was terrible. She had lost so much blood and was unconscious."

Medical help was on the scene within minutes, and Ms Dicker was taken in a helicopter to the hospital in Grenoble. Another helicopter flew Mr Wilson and his friend Nigel Purkhardt, of the tour operators Ski Peak, who had successfully negotiated the couloir, into La Grave town centre. They then drove for an hour to the hospital. "It was the worst hour of my life. I was thinking on the way, 'if she survives this I'm going to ask her to marry me'.

"But when we got there it was too late. She had died on her way to the hospital. She suffered a heart attack as well as head injuries. She was unconscious from the moment she hit the rocks. I think she only had two minutes at the most of anxiety, which is some comfort."

The couple were writing a book about their expedition. "She wrote all the notes. It willbe Lucy's book," he said. Ms Dicker, who came from Marseilles, met Mr Wilson on a ski trip when she worked for a now defunct tour operator. He said: "We had talked about going round the easy way but Lucy was not that sort of girl. I have always enjoyed the risks of skiing and I knew this was risky. So did she. I feel very guilty for turning Lucy into that sort of skier. She was a brave and lovely girl and did not like doing anything the easy way."

"I have thought seriously of hanging up my skis," Mr Wilson said. "But I am not sure if it is what Lucy would want me to do."

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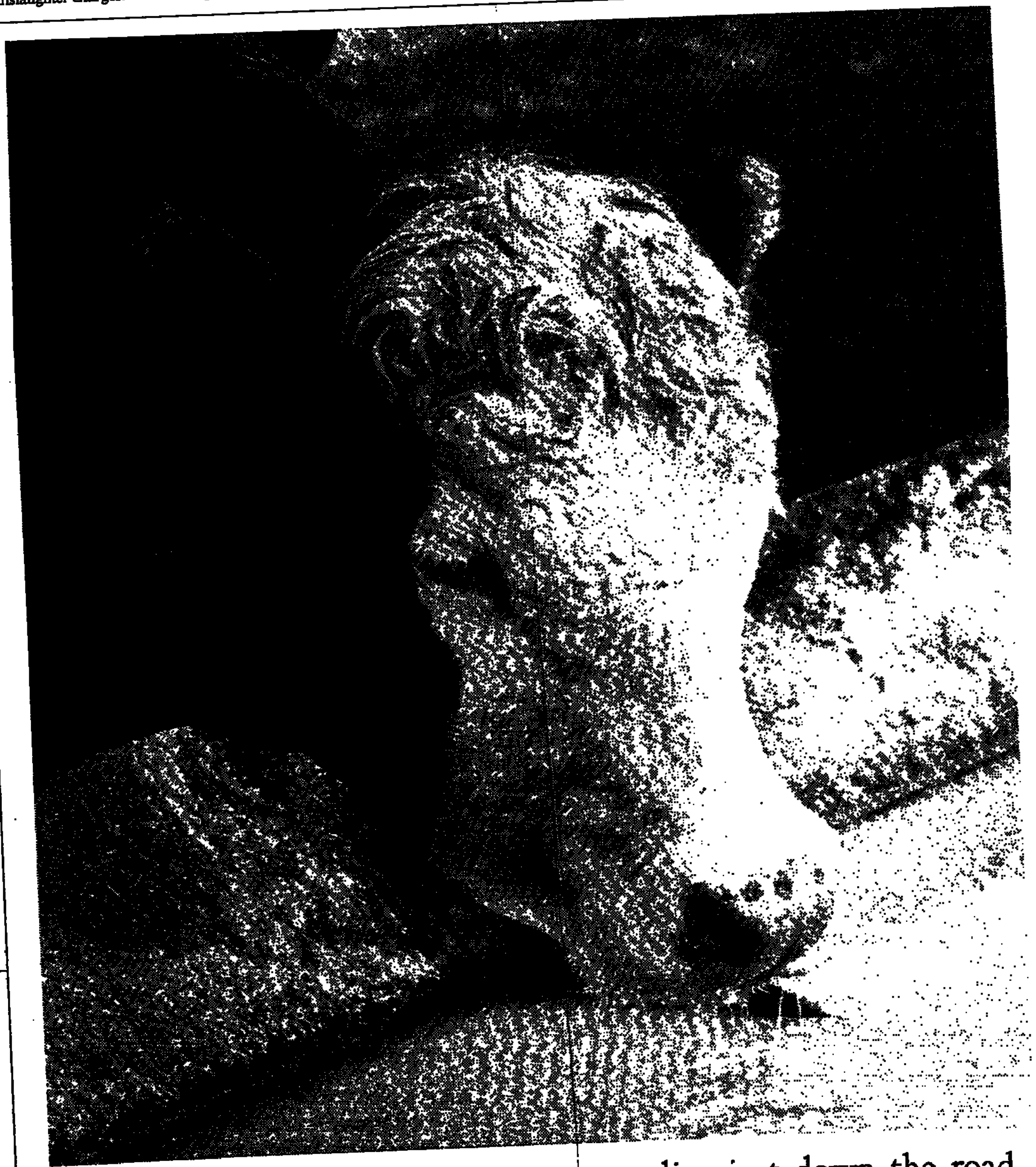

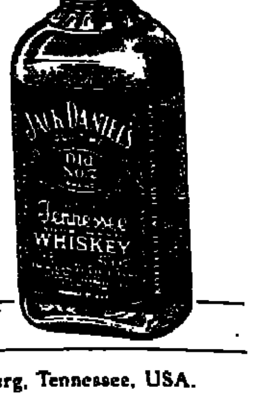

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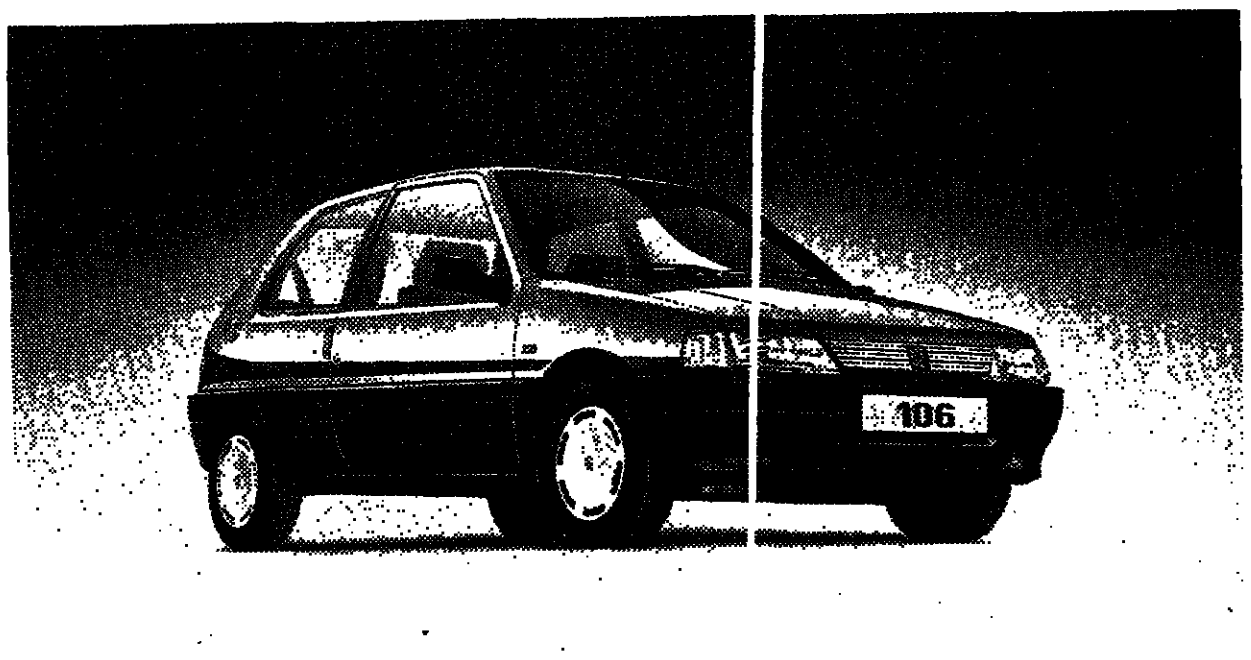

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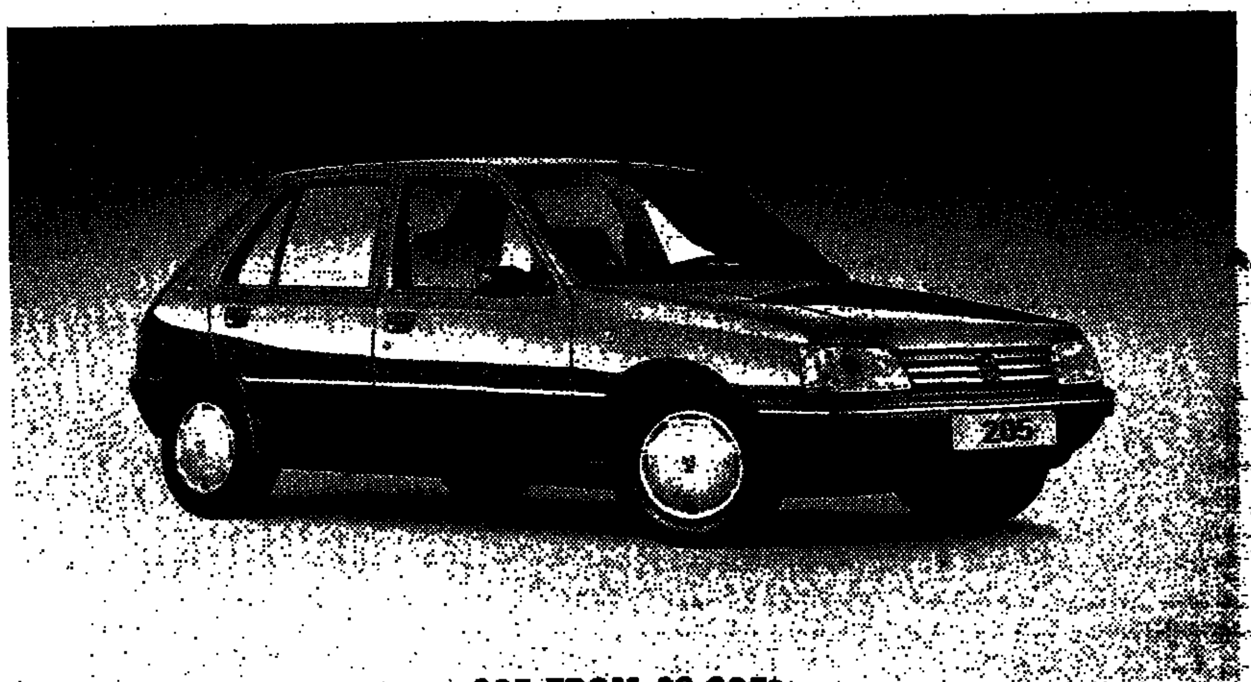

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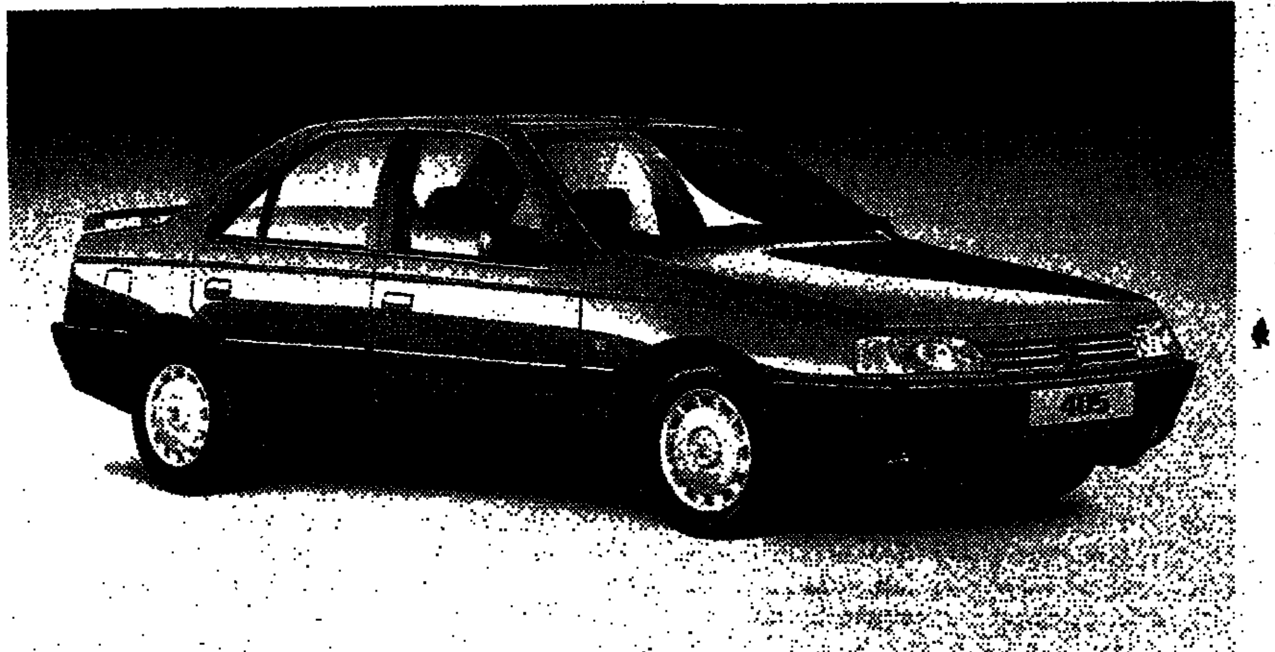

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هكذا امن الاجل

Fantasy figures in jade, bronze and gold 'present an ancient China that nobody ever dreamt of'

A Shang period bronze figure offered as a sacrifice

Chinese treasures force the experts to rewrite history

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SPECTACULAR treasures, older and more remarkable than anything previously seen in China, have been unearthed by archaeologists. They radically alter perceptions of the country's complex civilisation and mean that the history of ancient China will have to be rewritten.

News of the finds, rarely shown even in China, has been filtering out to Western archaeologists through little more than Chinese whispers. Now the jade, bronze and gold treasures are to be shown in Britain in an exhibition at the British Museum sponsored by *The Times*.

Such is the excitement of the show that its importance and potential drawing power is being compared to the 1972 Tutankhamun exhibition, for which an unprecedented 1.6 million people braved the queues. The exhibition will open in September next year.

Jessica Rawson, Warden of Merton College, Oxford, and one of the world's leading scholars of Oriental art, is academic adviser to the exhibition. She said: "These finds present an ancient China that nobody ever dreamt of." The exhibition will span more than 4,000 years, beginning around 5000 BC. Fantastic creatures and human figures with bulging eyes were discovered in various tombs in the southern part of the country. Many of the treasures show not only originality, Dr Rawson said, but fantasy — a trait not seen before in Chinese relics.

A larger-than-life size bronze human figure, a sacrificial offering found at Guanghan, reveals that there was more than one religion among these ancient peoples. The materials, and the sheer size of the objects, testify to the wealth of the civilisation that produced them. "This was a civilisation that could afford to bury such pieces," Dr Rawson said. Historians would explore the extent of the Chinese belief in the afterlife. Relatively little has been known about that subject until now.

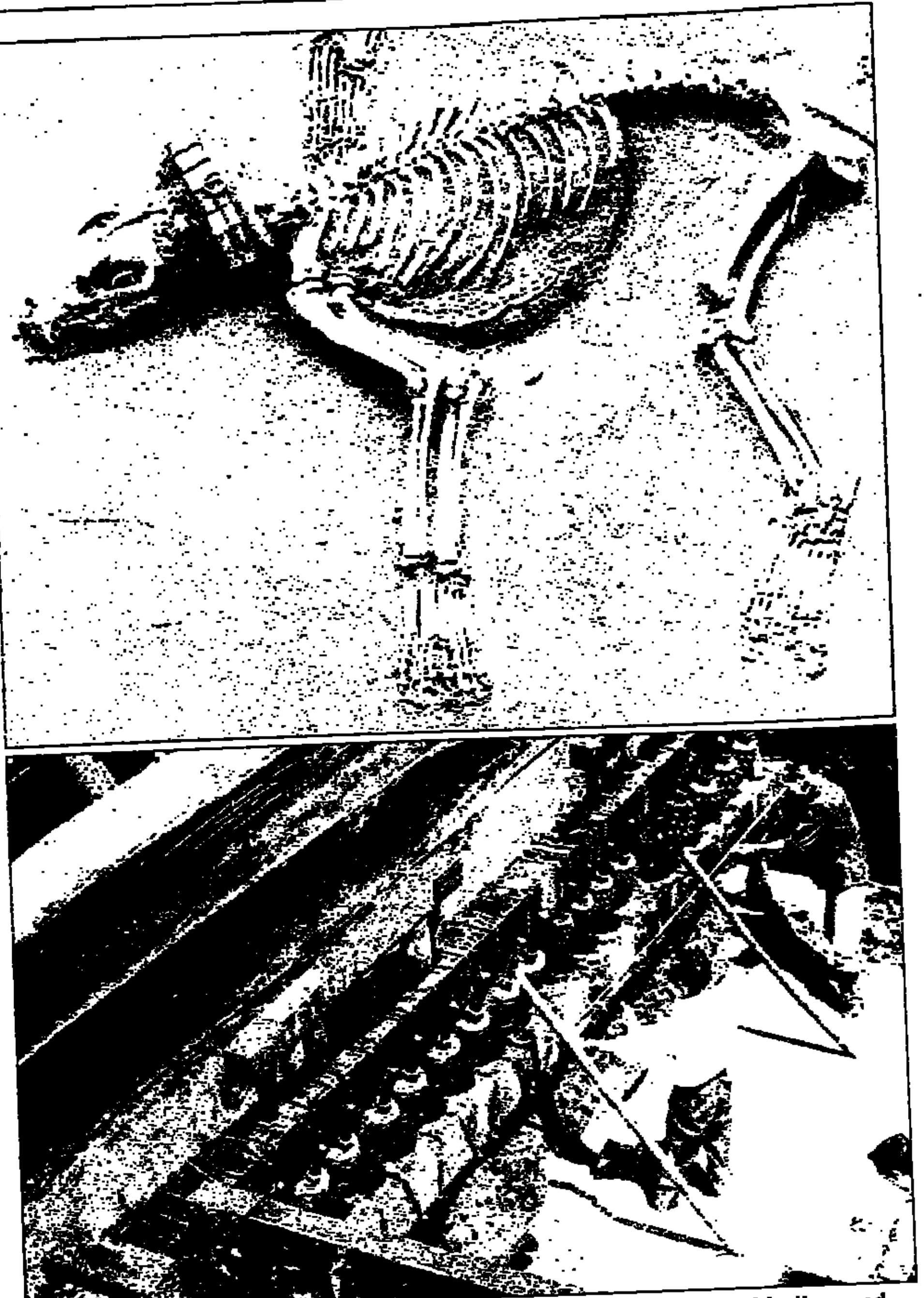
Fantasy animal dating from the 6th century BC

She said: "The discoveries show that the Chinese believed life after death would be as lavish as life itself had been. Whereas the ancient Egyptians primarily buried models of objects, the Chinese buried the real things, thinking that people would go on living and using them. These were for real."

The 433 BC tomb of the Marquis Yi of Zeng, for example, was packed with an astonishing array of everything a nobleman would need for court life — even music — judging by the 65 bronze bells he took with him.

In the tomb of King Cuo, near Pingshan, Hebei province, archaeologists found the skeletons of dogs wearing collars of gold, silver and turquoise.

Peter Stothard, editor of *The Times*, said that the first major exhibition of Chinese art in London for more than two decades was a great event. "*The Times* is proud to be associated with the British Museum in staging it. China has some of the richest archaeological sites in the world and the new finds offer extraordinary insights into the riches and beliefs of the ancient Chinese kingdoms."



Skeleton of a dog from the tomb of King Cuo, wearing a collar of gold, silver and turquoise. Below, archaeologists at the tomb of Marquis Yi, who died in 433 BC

Yeti hunters head for mountains in search of giant footprints

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

A SCIENTIFIC expedition set off yesterday for the mountains of central China in search of the yeti. The 30-strong expedition, led by Professor Yuan Zhengxin, of the Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Paleoanthropology in Peking, is a serious attempt to establish the reality of the fabled creature.

"I am certain that within three years we will have captured one of these wild men," Professor Yuan said. "Witnesses say the creatures have long, red hair and are big and powerful like giant apes, but are also capable of expressions that are vaguely human."

The newfound Chinese enthusiasm for yeti-hunting led to the formation last October of the Committee for Research on Rare and Strange Creatures, which Professor Yuan chairs. In September 1993 a group of Chinese engineers on a bus tour saw three creatures crossing the road. They followed them into the woods, but retreated when they realised how strong their quarry was. The engineers' evidence has carried more weight than many reports from peasants in the Shennongjia mountain range of Hubei province in central China, where Yuan's expedition is bound. Wang Fangchen, secretary-general of the committee, said that the search was the most important ever organised on the man-monkey.

The evidence so far consists of witnesses' accounts, giant footprints and strands of hair collected by villagers. The largest footprint was 16in long, leading scientists to believe the creature could weigh 660lb and stand more than 7ft tall.

Professor Yuan and Mr Wang have been studying eight hair specimens, believed to come from animals ranging throughout China and Tibet. None, they say, comes from humans or any known animal. The hair varies from black, collected in Yunnan province, to white from Tibet, to the reddish brown of the creatures seen by Hubei villagers.

"We have several sites to search and the Chinese Government is taking our work very seriously," Professor Yuan said. "That is why I am extremely confident in finding an answer to the mystery of the yeti in the next three to four years."

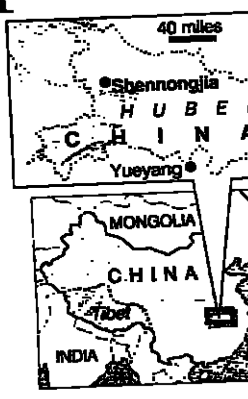
This is not the first time he has tried. "I have many times followed traces of the wild men and studied their faeces, and I have listened, like the villagers, to the long cries that echo through the forest after nightfall," he said. "These are not the cries of known animals."

Over the past 40 years there have been more than 200 reported sightings of the yeti. However, an attempt by Chris Bonington, the British mountaineer, to find the creature in 1988 ended in failure.

Dr Iain Bishop, of the Natural History Museum, said: "It's not impossible that they might find something. But without hard evidence, we're very dubious."

He said the museum would need physical evidence: "We don't deal in sightings, and we don't deal in photographs. We need an indentifiable part of the animal and, better still, the animal itself. All the hairs we have seen from creatures supposed to be yetis have been assignable to some known animal."

Leading article, page 19



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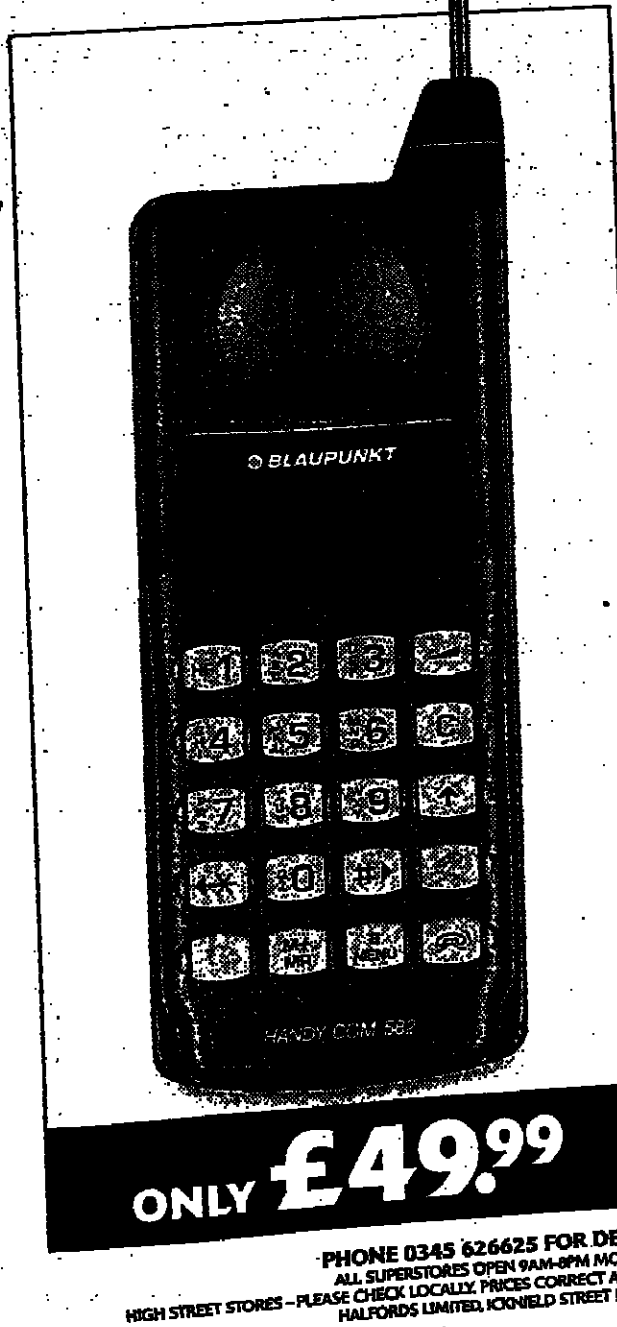

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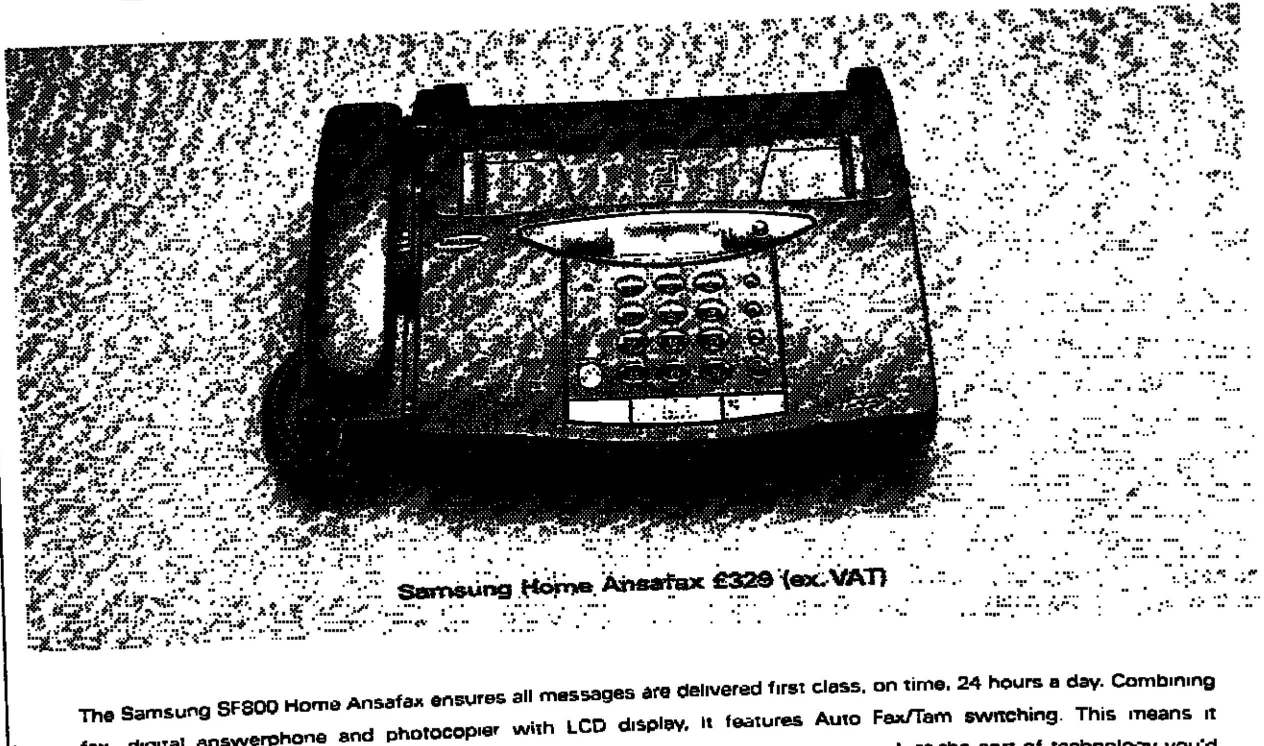

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> **"I've seen a lot of people buy and then lose their home due to redundancy."** *Miss Gibbs, Middlesex*

In fact, 13% of you said you would not want the burden of owning your own home, fearing that you would be saddled with a loss. On top of that, falling mortgage relief, rising interest rates and the instability of the job market have left some would-be borrowers wondering whether they could afford their monthly repayments.

Despite these misgivings, 81% of you still saw a house as a good investment and felt strongly that 'rent is dead money'. In fact, the more bullish among you felt that the market was actually working in your favour. You pointed out that a tight market with fewer buyers and sellers forced lenders to offer more attractive mortgage deals.

So what have we learned? The housing market has always traded on confidence, and despite the boom-bust eighties, people still believe in bricks and mortar as an investment. However, we've realised that as a lender, we can't expect people to be beating a path to our door. Home-buyers, quite rightly, are hunting around for the best deals. With that in mind, we've tailored our mortgages to suit today's competitive market. And we think we've come up with some very interesting offers. You can pick up details at any Midland branch.

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Carey challenges belief that prison is effective

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

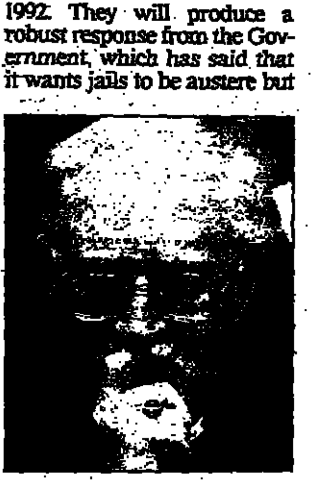
THE Archbishop of Canterbury will today question a central tenet of Michael Howard's criminal justice policy: that prison works.

Dr George Carey expresses his alarm at the large prison population, the number of unconvicted prisoners held in jail and the longer-term effects of overcrowding in jails. "It is clear what a difference can be made by an intelligent prison regime, but the inherent difficulties of prisons remain: the unjust punishment of prisoners' families, the damage to responsibility and self-esteem resulting from being locked up, the bad company."

He also condemns an "incipient lynch-mob culture", where unlimited hatred instead of justice is the driving force of punishment, and he criticises as dangerous the language used by some tabloid newspapers to describe criminals.

With the prison population at a record 51,754, Dr Carey says that fundamental questions remain about the "wisdom and justice of resorting to prison on such a scale". Although his address avoids any direct criticism of the Home Secretary, Dr Carey will tell a conference in Lincoln jail: "I am deeply concerned about the scale on which we are resorting to imprisonment."

His remarks put him at the head of those questioning the Government's penal policy, which has resulted in a 25 per cent rise in the prison population from 40,606 at the end of 1992. They will produce a robust response from the Government, which has said that it wants jails to be austere but decent establishments with more discipline, and privileges that are earned.



Carey: expresses alarm

Dr Carey condemns Britain's prison culture and gives warning of the grave problems caused by record numbers in the 133 jails in England and Wales.

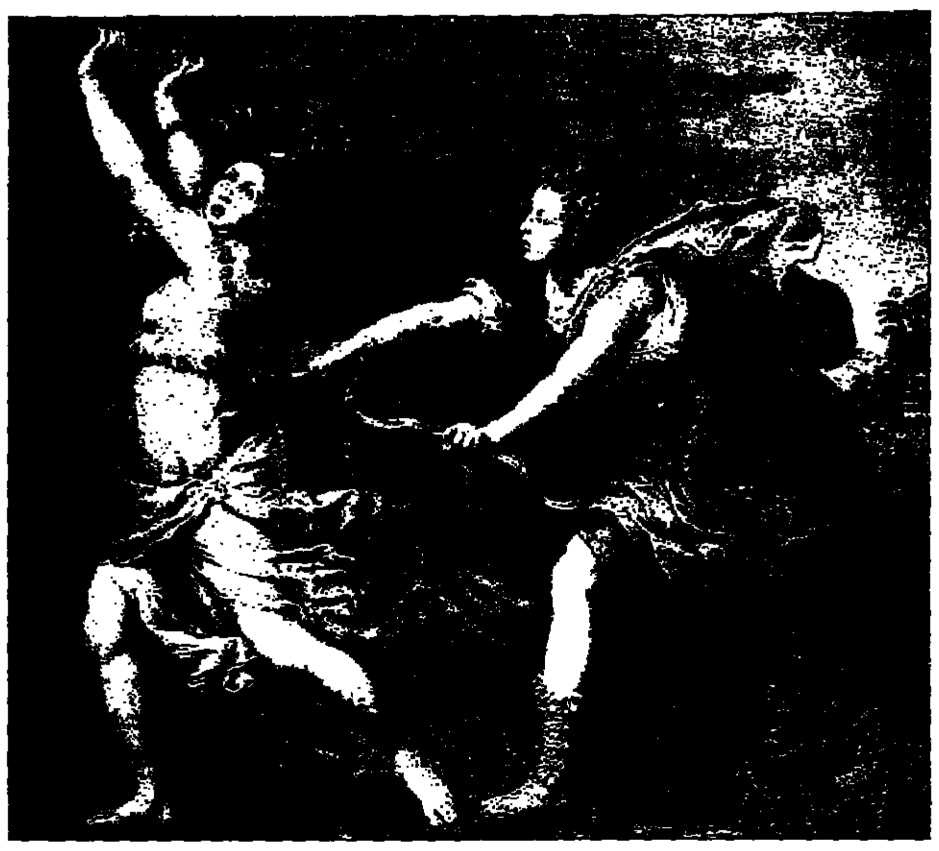
Dr Carey says: "It does horrify me that such large numbers of people in prison have not been sentenced to imprisonment at all. There are urgent issues here regarding both the length of time prisoners are kept waiting for trial and the numbers being remanded in custody rather than on bail."

He also condemns the rise of a culture where unlimited hatred instead of justice is the driving force of punishment. Dr Carey says that at times the "lynch-mob culture" seeks to fight its way back into the modern world. The lynch mob is the child of vengeance, driven by subjective hatred, he says. "It is worrying, for example, when certain tabloid newspapers are tempted to refer to particular criminals as beasts, scum, animals or vermin," he will tell an audience that includes Judge Tumim, the Chief Inspector of Prisons.

But he says that mercy and forgiveness without justice are a licence to do more wrong, and to forgive someone without recognition of wrongdoing is to collude in injustice and moral disorder.

Dr Carey, who was chaplain at Low Newton remand centre in Co Durham from 1977-81, has discussed alternatives to custodial sentences with Mr Howard but he is anxious that the Church should be seen to be concerned with the biblical concept of justice as well as compassion and forgiveness.

He will argue that the biblical concept of "an eye for an eye" tried to secure justice by limiting the disproportionate violence flowing from vengeance. "Vengeance is driven by subjective anger and hatred," he says. "Anger and hatred do not demand high standards of evidence and pay no regard to mitigating circumstances. Penalties exacted on the basis of hatred will be inconsistent and arbitrary."



Apollo and Daphne, an important unrecorded work by a 17th-century master, which was discovered in a seaside boathouse in Cornwall, sold at Christie's yesterday for £89,500 (Dalya Alberge writes). The painting, by Lorenzo Lippi, had lain covered in cobwebs for 20 years. The owner of the estate

Boathouse Apollo sold

at Heligan, near Pentewan, had no idea that the work, which is more than five feet high, was there until a recent clear-out. The owner contacted a Christie's representative in Cornwall, Christopher Petherick, who recalled: "I could scarcely believe what I saw." The painting was acquired by an anonymous telephone bidder from the Continent. It was sold by a female member of the Tremayne family, who have lived at Heligan since 1560.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Heroes without hope

❛I heard a woman behind me in the crowd gossiping about a recently demobbed commando: "Two and a half years away! Back only a fortnight and she doesn't know what to do with him. He sits in the back room by himself. Won't speak to anybody, won't go out, won't read. Won't do nothing. She doesn't know what to do. There'll be trouble there."❜

Fifty years on, vivid memories of how the jubilation at the end of the war quickly turned to disillusionment —

When daddy came home — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

Pope condemns 'rampant porn'

BY A STAFF REPORTER

THE Pope made a fierce attack yesterday on "rampant pornography", saying it debased women and portrayed them as sex objects.

Writing in his annual letter to priests to mark Holy Thursday, Pope John Paul II says: "The Lord's prayer . . . takes on a specific meaning in the context of contemporary civilisation, steeped as it is in elements of hedonism, self-centredness and sensuality." He says: "Pornography is unfortunately rampant, debasing the dignity of women and treating them exclusively as objects of sexual pleasure."

The Pope says pornography could expose priests and married couples to temptation. "These aspects of present-day civilisation certainly do not favour either marital fidelity or celibacy," he wrote.

The Pope also reiterates the Catholic Church's ban on women priests. He said: "In some quarters the fact that women cannot be ordained is interpreted as a form of discrimination. But is this really the case? The ministerial priesthood, in Christ's plan, is an expression not of domination but of service."

At Your Service, Weekend, page 2

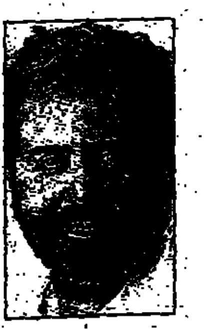
[redacted]

Tolerance — the universal need

Umar Hegedüs

Many committed and conscientious Muslims are distressed by the denial of human rights in Muslim majority countries. At present, no state serves as a model in its application of Islamic principles. Although any infringement of human rights in such countries is widely publicised among non-Muslims, they might be unaware that under Islamic law, the rights of every individual, whatever their race, religion or gender, are enshrined and respected.

Islam requires Muslims to speak out against, and distance themselves from, behaviour that does not reflect Islamic teaching, and against infringements of human rights. Yet, in some Muslim majority countries, to speak out is to invite danger. A society that purports to be Islamic is expected to base its intentions and actions on the principles of Islam. The moral code and values of Islam taught in the Koran are derived from the Creator as Ethical Being with the best attributes. They are His explanations and directions to all humankind and are not purely theoretical. As He is The Forgiving, The Merciful and The Compassionate, Muslims must also strive to be. The Creator's guidance is practical, His prophets are exemplars.



Islam's second source of guidance is the Sunnah: the comprehensively recorded and documented teaching and example of His Final Prophet and Messenger Muhammad (peace and blessings upon him and his family). Willingly and joyfully complied with, the teachings of the Koran and Sunnah lead to harmony with all that He has created. To harm others, or despoil, pollute and devastate His creation is to stray from Islam. This applies not only to individuals but to families, neighbourhoods and governments. An Islamic community, whose purpose is to establish the systems and institutions of Islam for the service of Allah and the benefit of the people, must adhere to Islamic moral codes and values.

In practice, this includes the establishment of prayer and charity, looking after the weak and needy, settling disputes and putting into action policies which promote what is good and prohibit what is harmful and evil. The conduct of an Islamic community or state must be governed by principles that include justice and equality before the law. They also include freedom of belief and worship. Human life is sacred and must be protected against death and injury. Any government which introduces laws contrary to these principles is acting against the teachings and practices of the Islamic faith and cannot claim Islamic legitimacy.

If it continues to be condoned, the current polemic against Islam and Muslims may provoke a repetition of the racial and religious intolerance of half a century ago that produced the Holocaust. Whatever one's faith perspective, surely every right-thinking person acknowledges that human rights must be for all people in all countries, regardless of race, religion and gender. Whoever was it who said: "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that man should do to you, do ye even so to them"? The teachings of Islam, it seems, are not the only ones being flouted.

☐ *Umar Hegedüs is director of Amana, a voluntary charity which promotes understanding of Islam and its followers.*

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'We were called vandals, destroyers, government lackeys'

I was vilified for hospital closures, says Tomlinson

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Sir Bernard stands by his proposals for reform

THE architect of the London hospital closures has spoken for the first time of the vilification and abuse he suffered over the project.

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, chairman of the 1992 inquiry into London's health services, says he was pilloried as a vandal and harangued in the street after publication of his report. However, he says the closure programme he recommended remains essential if patients are to get the best from medical advances.

Implementation of his proposals, which tolled the bell for some of London's most renowned teaching hospitals, is well under way. But an eleventh hour *cri de coeur* from a group of London Tory backbenchers is threatening the future of the programme and the Cabinet post of Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary.

In the interview in the Royal College of Psychiatrists' *Bulletin*, Sir Bernard says he took on the job of reviewing London's health services because "it needed to be done". But he was wounded by the personal abuse heaped on him.

"The immediate aftermath was highly unpleasant. There were many personal comments in the London press that were unfair and had nothing to do with the case. We were called vandals, destroyers, government lackeys.

"I have even been stopped in the street in London by people who recognised me and been harangued. If you're a politician I suspect you just live with it and it rolls off, but I found it fairly hard to bear."

Sir Bernard, who says that he is "not a Conservative and have never been a Conservative", says his approach to the London problem was shaped by his experience of the unequal distribution of services in the northern region, centred on Newcastle upon Tyne, where he was chairman of the regional health authority from 1982 to 1991.

"Newcastle had gobbled up a large amount of the expenditure. The concentration of services in large cities and leading hospitals occurs nationally ... The main thing I wanted to do when I became regional chairman was ... to see developments elsewhere."

Later in the interview he says: "In inner London, the prestigious teaching hospitals have dominated the medical scene for over a century and received the lion's share of finances. Where community and acute hospital services are under the same authority there is always a tendency for the community to lose out."

Sir Bernard says his proposals for building up primary care and merging London's medical schools have been accepted and implemented "at a speed I would not have expected. It has gone better than I thought it would."

He says the hospital changes were clearly going to be extremely difficult but that there is now acceptance that major changes are needed. The chief reasons for change were the rapid decline in length of stay in hospital, reducing the need for beds, and the large number of small specialist units in London "too small for best practice, teaching and research".

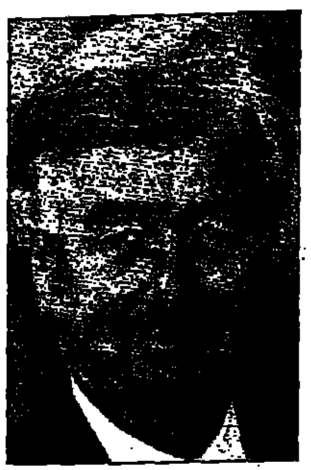
GPs consider industrial action over night calls

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE threat of industrial action by GPs grew yesterday as doctors' leaders said there was "an immense gulf" between the profession and health ministers over night-visit payments. The British Medical Association, which is calling for £100 million for a new night-time service, blamed ministers for encouraging patients to expect doctors to be "on tap" at any time of night.

After a threat by the BMA to ballot GPs on industrial action, senior doctors complained yesterday about the lack of progress at a meeting this week with Gerald Malone, the Health Minister.

Ian Bogle, chairman of the association's GPs' committee, wrote to Mr Malone yesterday saying the meeting "caused us serious disappointment and provided no basis for significant progress towards an acceptable resolution". Mr Bogle said: "Governments over years have increased patients' expectations so that some patients think there is a 24-hour GP service which is the same at night as during the day."



Bogle: disappointed

Dr Sandy Macara, BMA chairman, said the demand for night visits "has increased by three times in the last few years. Patients have been encouraged, almost incited, to increase their demands ... to see doctors as being on tap through patient's charters."

Further talks between the BMA and Health Department will take place before April 20 when the association's GP committee meets to decide whether to ballot 26,000 family doctors on industrial action. GPs insist that action will not harm patient care but suggest that they are likely to include measures aimed at raising costs or clogging up the hospital system. Among sanctions being drawn up are removing goodwill, driving up the drugs bill and sending more referrals to consultants.

However, there were some signs yesterday that the Government had shifted closer to the the doctors' demands. The BMA said that Mr Malone had been adamant at the meeting on Thursday that there was no more than £15 million available to develop out-of-hours services. Within hours, they had received a letter indicating there could be supplementary funding. "It's positive but we are still a long way from the £100 million," a BMA spokesman said.

Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, urged doctors not to take industrial action. "We have agreed to change the rules," she said on BBC radio. "We have put an extra £15 million into finding ways of supporting that locally, but there is a dispute among different GPs about the best way forward."

☐ Radiographers moved a step closer to joining the health workers' pay rebellion by deciding yesterday to debate a call for industrial action. An emergency motion urging the ruling council of the Society of Radiographers to consider holding a ballot will be discussed at the union's conference on Monday.

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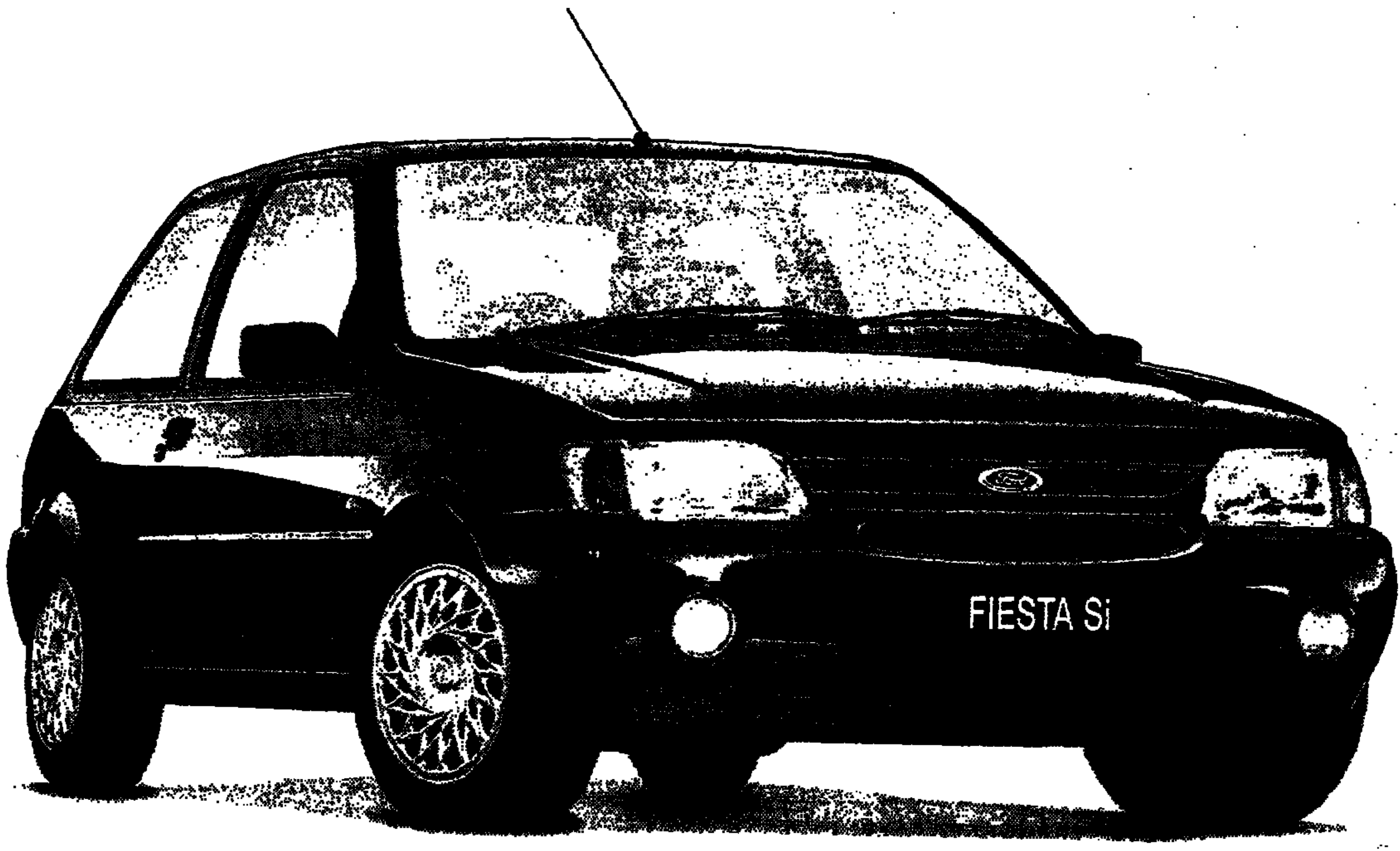

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Fire deaths father to be retried

A man accused of murdering his three children and attempting to kill their mother is to be retried after a jury was discharged when it failed to reach verdicts. Graeme Alderton, 30, had denied all charges arising from a fire at his home in Peterlee, Co Durham, in February 1994. The prosecution said Mr Alderton started the fire to get rehoused: he claimed it was started by an associate in a fraud conspiracy.

Village in dark

Televisions, computers, lights and toasters exploded after a power-cable failure doubled the voltage to about 40 homes in Gunnislake, Cornwall. The village was without power throughout Thursday night.

Deer-hunt bomb

Police suspect animal rights protesters of planting a bomb under the car of Peter Barfoot, master of the New Forest Buckhounds. The bomb was found by Mr Barfoot's daughter Kimberley, 14.

Ashes airdrop

The ashes of Sir Charles Irving, former Tory MP for Cheltenham, are to be scattered over the town from an aircraft. The airdrop was one of Sir Charles's last requests before his death last month.

Conway recovers

Russ Conway, 69, the pianist whose career was threatened by a hand injury two weeks ago, is expected to make a full recovery. Mr Conway's left thumb was almost severed in the door of his Rolls-Royce.

Landlady died after reaction to HRT

BY A STAFF REPORTER

A PUB landlady died after suffering a "one-in-a-million" reaction to hormone replacement therapy, an inquest was told yesterday. Irene Brankin, 44, collapsed six weeks after starting the treatment.

Bernard Brankin, who ran the Glenmore Arms in Woolwich, southeast London, with his wife, said: "I was in the cellar and a friend called and said there was something wrong. My wife was lying on a bench. She seemed to get better. Ten minutes later we took her upstairs and laid her on the settee. I gave her water. But within a couple of minutes she started to turn blue so I called an ambulance."

Mrs Brankin was taken to hospital where she was operated on, but she died two days later on January 22.

The inquest at Southwark, south London, was told that Mrs Brankin had started her treatment of a low dose of HRT on December 8, 1994, and that all normal precautions were taken before prescribing the drugs.

Dr Ian Hill, the pathologist who carried out a post-mortem examination on Mrs Brankin at Guy's Hospital, central London, said the hormone treatment probably caused a clot in her lungs, but it was a very rare phenomenon, a "one-in-a-million" chance.

Selina Shippey, assistant deputy coroner, agreed that no blame should be attached to the medical staff involved and recorded a verdict of accidental death.

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Beat officers to carry CS spray for protection

Howard: to approve trials

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Correspondent

POLICE officers on patrol will soon carry CS sprays for protection. Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and chief constables are expected to approve trials next week before issuing the sprays to 120,000 frontline officers.

The sprays, used by some European and American forces, are supported by many officers as one way of preventing the slide towards carrying firearms. They weigh a few ounces and are small enough to be worn on belts or in a pocket. The canisters will have a range of about three feet and take effect within one or two seconds. CS is a white powder developed from tear gas and affects the tear and mucous areas causing watering eyes, sneezing, coughing and pains.

Some officers are concerned at the controversy that has surrounded the use of CS in Northern Ireland and possible medical effects. Michael Bennett, chairman of the Metropolitan Police branch of the Police Federation, said he would have preferred the use of pepper sprays, which have also been studied by the Home Office. Chief Supt David Clark, secretary of the Superintendents' Association, which also called for pepper sprays, said: "We are happy with whatever does the job. If CS does it, then fine."

Next week all 43 chief constables in England and Wales will meet to debate setting up the trials. Once they have agreed, the forces involved in trials will be announced. Scotland Yard has already made clear publicly that it will test CS on the streets. The other forces are expected to be Northumbria, Kent and Avon and Somerset.

Rules for the use of the sprays have not been drawn up yet but senior officers say they should be used only against violent and armed criminals. One source said officers would be expected to use the sprays only if they could not restrain an offender physically or with their truncheon.

Patrolling officers in a number of forces will carry small sprays for a test period of some months. The results will be evaluated and chief constables will decide on permanent issue of the sprays.

After testing three different types of CS delivery and assessing medical reports on the alternative of pepper sprays, a working party is understood to have opted for tests with an aerosol. Pepper sprays were ruled out because the effects last much longer than CS and there is concern it could adversely affect pregnant women, and asthmatics, or people with other respiratory or neurological conditions.

CS has been available for 30 years but only for siege or riot situations. Widely used in Ulster, CS has been deployed in only one mainland riot, in 1981 at Toxteth when police used the wrong type of cartridge. Scotland Yard's specialist firearms teams already carry the sprays for dealing with gunmen but they have never been used.

Dog aerosol gives postmen a chance

By A Staff Reporter

A DOG warden has patented a deterrent spray that can halt an attacking dog with a three-second burst.

The spray, BiteBack, is made from herbal ingredients and is the result of four years' research by Keith Mayhew of Stibb Cross, Devon, in conjunction with a local chemical firm.

The aerosol, which contains 60 seconds of the "non-lethal" spray, has been tested by the Post Office, which is concerned about an increase in dog attacks on staff. Last year 121 cases were recorded in the West Country alone.

Mr Mayhew said he had also had inquiries from water boards, several police forces and from overseas. "The response so far has been overwhelming."

BiteBack is being made by the Somerset firm Aerosol International and incorporates a dye so that offending dogs can be recognised.

Mr Mayhew, who has often been bitten, is confident that his invention can halt even the most fearsome attack. The spray, which has been tested on humans as well as animals, sends confusing signals to the brain, which stops the attack. "The spray doesn't stun the animals, it is meant to give the victim more time to escape.

"When you smell it, it is like hair growing in your mouth. That is the only way you can describe it."

JOHN CHAPPLE

Keith Mayhew demonstrates his BiteBack spray, designed to confuse and immobilise an attacking dog without causing permanent harm

Hi-tech farmers tackle rustlers

By A Staff Reporter

HIGH TECHNOLOGY is being employed to catch rustlers where the traditional methods of guard dogs, noisy territorial geese and farmers wielding 12-bore shotguns have proved unsuccessful against modern criminals.

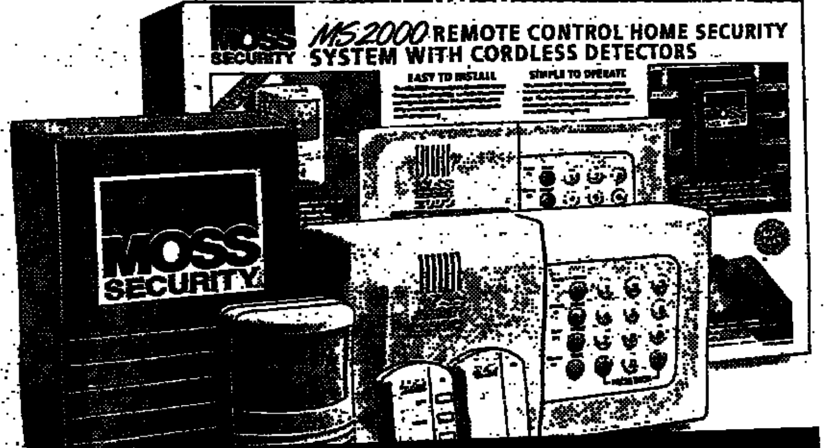
The recession and the extension of the motorway system have spawned gangs of thieves who raid farms in remote areas and make a rapid getaway to their homes in cities often hundreds of miles away.

David Naish, president of the National Farmers' Union, is one of many farmers who has lost sheep. In recent weeks seven farms around Newark, Nottinghamshire, have fallen victim to the gangs. One farmer lost 81 pigs worth £2,400.

John Barrowman, of Quantum Security, left the Royal Corps of Signals nine years ago and has developed a security system using radio signals that can alert the farmer to intruders.

The system throws a beam up to 110ft away and can distinguish between animals and people. It can be linked to an alarm five miles away. In the daytime it gives off bleeps, but at night it alerts the farmer with a shrill screech. Mr Barrowman said: "The application is specific to the problems facing farmers."

ALARMS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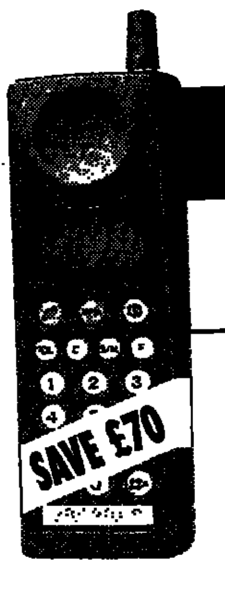

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Abandoned Tories left with nothing by Scottish voters

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE Conservatives suffered an humiliating defeat at the hands of the Scottish electorate in the local government elections, failing to win outright control of a single council and taking only 81 of the 1,161 contested seats.

The party of government, after polling only 11 per cent of the vote, has fewer councillors than Labour (614), the SNP (181) and the Liberal Democrats (123). Only one in ten voters supported the Tories and the gap between them and Labour in Scotland is now 36 percentage points, the widest on record. Independent candidates gained 153 seats.

Yesterday, when all the results were in, even the most gloomy of pre-election predictions appeared to have been optimistic. The mood among Scottish Tories was one of depression and anger, with local Tories blaming Westminster for their defeat.

By contrast, Labour members were triumphant. Even their political opponents had grudgingly to admit that the Labour Party had had an excellent election. Labour will control 20 of the 29 new unitary local authorities outright when the handover happens on April 1, 1996. Eighty per cent of Scots will then be governed by a Labour council.

Labour polled 47 per cent of the vote, its best result in Scotland, and the election was seen by the leadership as a vote of confidence in Tony Blair's new-look party.

There was disappointment for the Scottish National Party, which managed to gain control of only three councils and failed to make inroads in Labour's stronghold in the central belt of the country. The nationalists failed to gain any seats in Edinburgh and took only one in Glasgow.

The SNP had one spectacular triumph when it won outright control of Perth & Kinross from the Conservatives, who saw their 17 seats reduced to two while the SNP took 18 of the wards. The significance of the result for the forthcoming Perth & Kinross parliamentary by-election was not lost on the SNP, which is confidently predicting that its candidate, Roseanna Cunningham, will be the constituency's next MP.

The SNP also took control of Moray for the first time and held on to Angus but it was dealt a blow when West Lothian went to Labour.

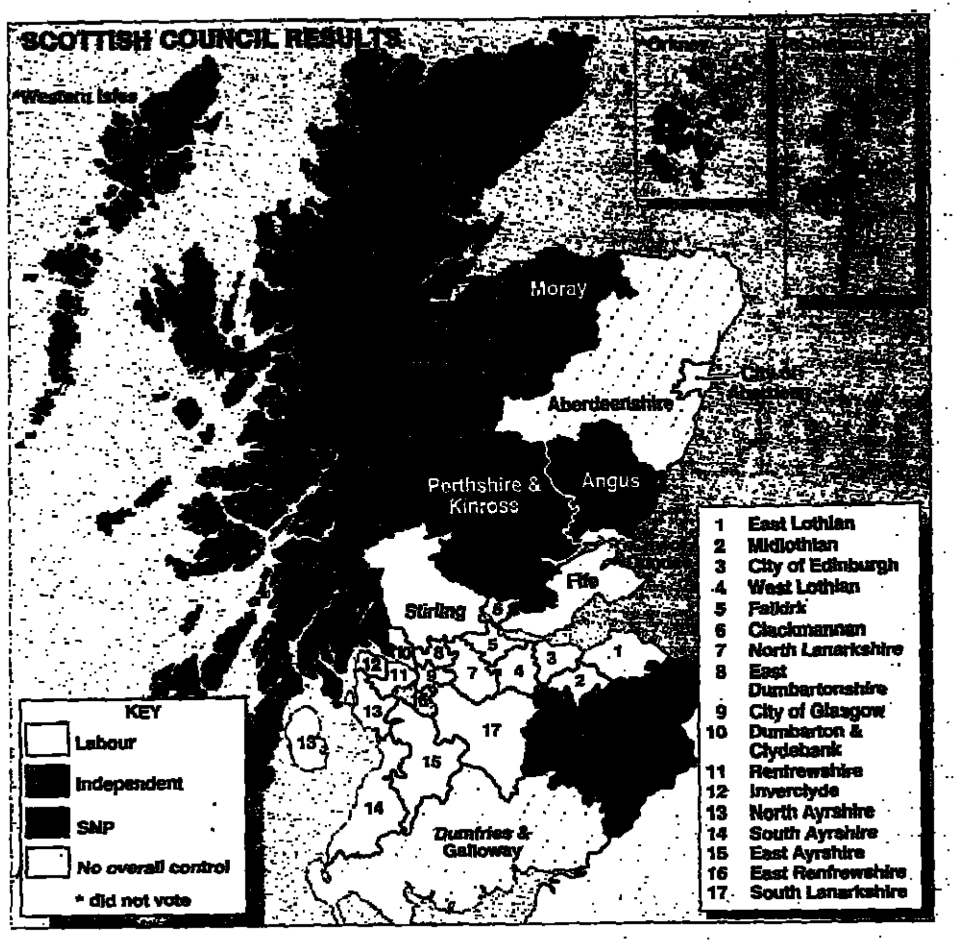
Previously there had been no overall control of the council but the SNP had won the right to lead the administration and had touted it as a model SNP council.

The extent of the Conservative disaster became clear in the early hours as Tory stronghold after Tory stronghold fell to Labour. First to go was Stirling, where Labour took 13 wards to the Tories' seven. They then lost East Dumbartonshire (formerly Bearsden and Milngavie), South Ayrshire (formerly Kyle and Carrick) and Roxburgh, amalgamated into the Borders.

The biggest blow came when they lost control of East Renfrewshire, formerly Eastwood council and the parliamentary constituency of Allan Stewart, the architect of the local government reforms.

The Liberals also failed to win control of a single council but said they were happy to gain their highest number of councillors in Scotland, putting them ahead of the Tories for the first time.

Tory disaster, page 1
Leading article and letters, page 19


SCOTTISH COUNCIL RESULTS

Defeat for 'party of south' follows long-term trend

Local elections are treated as either cataclysmic or irrelevant. Both reactions are wrong. It is silly to extrapolate results to a general election which could still be two years away. But Thursday's results do underline how unpopular the Tories are and therefore how much they will have to do if they are to have any chance of retaining power.

Scottish elections have to be interpreted with particular care since the Tories have been on the slide there for a long time. Their post-war peak north of the border was not in 1959 nor 1983, when the party had huge Commons majorities, but in 1955 when the party won more than half the overall vote and had more than half the Scottish MPs. Since then, there has been a steady decline, with merely short-lived remissions when the party has won nationally. In 1992, the Tories had barely a quarter of the overall Scottish vote and just a tenth of its 72 seats. So the Tories' very poor results on Thursday were not surprising, but rather a continuation of a long-term trend.

[illegible]

The Tories have suffered from being seen as a party of southern England and for resisting devolution, as the fortunes of both the Liberal Democrats and the Scottish Nationalists have revived since the late 1960s. Successive Scottish Secretaries have fought rearguard actions to protect their party's position. In 1992, the party defied widespread predictions of a wipe-out. Therefore a marginally improved share of the vote and number of MPs was made to seem a great success. Any Tory illusions have now been shattered.

The Government's unpopularity is likely to be reinforced by the local elections in England in four weeks. While results vary depending on the local record, the main influences are national. There are plenty of reasons now for Tory supporters to express their anger by a protest vote.

The pertinent question is what the Tories can do, or rather what they should not do. John Major rightly gave a warning yesterday about the damaging impact of internal divisions. But the most that is likely is a strained truce over Europe, even if the nine whipless rebels soon return to the fold. A summer reshuffle will deal with some obvious weaknesses in the Cabinet. But that will be no panacea. Disaffected Tory MPs will doubtless attempt to stir a leadership contest. Yet not only is there no credible successor in the short-term, the divisions produced by a contest could hurt the Tories badly. Cabinet heavyweights and leaders of the pro-European and sceptic groups, Kenneth Clarke and Michael Portillo, will mount a concerted campaign to kill leadership speculation after the May 4 elections. Douglas Hurd signalled their line last night. Mr Major, he said, "is an admirable Prime Minister. He is more popular than the party. Against these two facts the case for a change collapses."

All that the Tories can do is avoid their instinct to panic, be patient until the impact of recovery is felt more widely and develop fresh ideas from the current reviews of policy to show why they should be given a fifth term. The Scottish results suggest that the onus of proof now lies with the Tories rather than with Labour.

PETER RIDDELL

[illegible]

Aberdeen: Lab control (Lab 30, LD 10, C 9, SNP 1)
Aberdeenshire: No overall control (LD 15, SNP 15, Ind 13, C 4)
Angus: SNP control (SNP 21, C 2, LD 2, Ind 1)
Borders: Ind control (Ind 30, LD 15, SNP 8, C 3, Lab 2)
Clackmannan: Lab control (Lab 8, SNP 3, C 1)
Dumbarton & Clydebank: Lab control (Lab 14, SNP 7, Ind 1)
Dumfries & Galloway: NOC (Ind 27, Lab 21, LD 10, SNP 9, C 2, Others 1)
Dundee: Lab control (Lab 28, C 4, SNP 3, Ind 1)
East Ayrshire: Lab control (Lab 22, SNP 8)
East Dumbartonshire: Lab control (Lab 15, LD 9, C 2)
East Lothian: Lab control (Lab 15, C 3)
East Renfrewshire: NOC (C 9, Lab 8, LD 2, R 1)
Edinburgh: Lab control (Lab 34, C 14, LD 10)
Falkirk: Lab control (Lab 23, SNP 8, Ind 3, C 2)
Fife: Lab control (Lab 54, LD 25, SNP 9, Ind 2, Others 2)
Glasgow: Lab control (Lab 77, C 3, LD 1, SNP 1, Others 1)
Highland: Ind control (Ind 49, SNP 9, Lab 7, LD 6, C 1)
Inverclyde: Lab control (Lab 14, LD 5, C 1)
Midlothian: Lab control (Lab 13, SNP 2)
Moray: SNP control (SNP 13, [illegible] 3, Ind 2)
North Ayrshire: Lab control (Lab 26, C 1, Ind 1, SNP 1, Vac 1)
North Lanarkshire: Lab control (Lab 60, SNP 7, Others 2)
Perthshire & Kinross: SNP control (SNP 18, Lab 6, LD 5, C 2, Ind 1)
Renfrewshire: Lab control (Lab 22, SNP 13, LD 3, C 2)
South Ayrshire: Lab control (Lab 21, C 4)
South Lanarkshire: Lab control (Lab 61, SNP 8, C 2, LD 2, Vac 1)
Stirling: Lab control (Lab 13, C 7, SNP 2)
West Lothian: Lab control (Lab 15, SNP 11, C 1)

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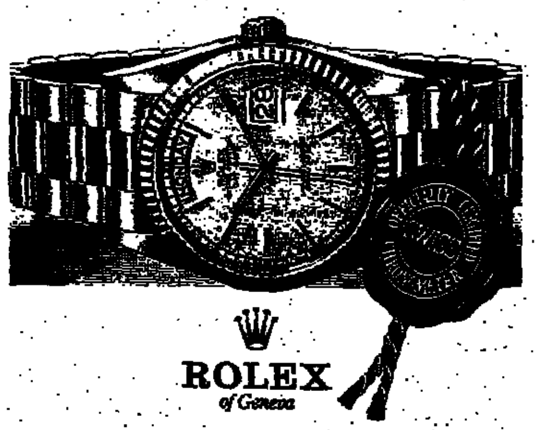

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Head shaved, scalp greased with saline gel, condemned killer 'knew' that his time had come

Legal battle took Ingram to the edge of death and back

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN JACKSON, GEORGIA

SIXTY-FIVE minutes before Nicholas Ingram was due to *die in the electric chair he was granted a temporary reprieve, but the condemned man was not informed* for another 40 minutes.

"That was two-thirds of the rest of his life," his lawyer, Clive Stafford Smith, observes grimly.

By the time he was told he had been spared, at least for the time being, Ingram was quite convinced he was going to die in 25 minutes, and with good reason: his head and right leg had been shaved, and his scalp greased with a saline gel to receive the electrodes of the electric chair; he had been dressed in special execution trousers, with a slit in the leg *through which the wires could pass; he had been asked if he* wished to make a last statement, and he had angrily refused, just as he had declined to arrange for a last meal; the hearse had arrived through the back gate of Georgia's death row.

Three hours earlier the last group of Ingram's relatives and his "spiritual adviser" had been told to leave the Georgia Diagnostic and Classification Centre. Two hours before that he had said goodbye to his distraught mother and father, remarking: "When your time comes, your time comes."

But then, thanks to the bizarre *system* of US legal appeals, *Ingram's time did not come. He was taken back to* the "holding cell" adjoining the execution chamber to spend another 24 hours talking to relatives, smoking cigarettes and waiting to die.

That macabre finale came at the end of a day of almost unimaginable horror for the Ingram family. Overnight Ingram had "slept like a rock", according to Mr Stafford Smith, and then ate a large breakfast on Thursday morning, believing that he would be spared after his meeting with J. Wayne Garner, the chairman of Georgia's Board of Pardons and Paroles.

"They had a nice chat. He was sure he would get a *commutation of his sentence,"* *his lawyer said. Then came the news that the board had ruled against clemency, and* the grisly "death watch" for Ingram began in earnest. All day, knots of relatives came and went. His mother and father, Ann and Johny Ingram, sped away from the prison after spending just two hours with their son, shattered and convinced they would never see him alive again.

Meanwhile, Ingram's lawyers were desperately chasing an appeal for a stay of execution though the courts. By mid-morning, the Georgia Supreme Court had rejected the *appeal which then made its way to Judge Horace Ward of* federal district court. By 4pm the last remaining relatives had left, and witnesses to the execution began to arrive. "It's all over very fast," one remarked nonchalantly as he parked his truck inside the gates. "It would be worse if they struggled. I've bought some drinks and sandwiches in case we have to wait."

Even Mary Sawyer, the wife of the *man* Ingram was convicted *of murdering* in 1983, *found the wait agonising: "I'm not happy at what is happening today,* but I know it is the right thing," she told a *local* television station. "He offered us no mercy at all, he put himself in the electric chair."

The scene outside the prison as the mostly British media assembled could hardly have been more surreal. On a finely manicured lawn, we stood in a taped-off enclosure while armed guards glowered menacingly and birds sang in the dogwood blossoms.

Every hour Vicki Gavalas, the spokeswoman for the Georgia Department of Corrections, emerged from the prison to provide updates with a matter-of-fact air that chilled. A Georgia peach of the old-fashioned sort, with heavy makeup, dangling earrings and a vivid twang, Ms Gavalas has worked on more than a dozen executions. She might have been reading the weather report.

Yes, Ingram was now being *shaved. No, the court had not issued a ruling. No, he did not eat lunch because he wasn't* hungry. Yes, the condemned man was not very happy. *In* fact, he was downright rude when one of Ms Gavalas's underlings asked him if he wanted to make a last statement. "He is angry and irritable," she sniffed, in contrast to most other condemned men on the verge of execution who "have usually accepted their fate". Manners clearly mean a lot to Ms Gavalas.

Supporters of the death *penalty blame the agony of these last-minute stays of exe*cution on defence lawyers who intentionally wait until the last moment to file appeals in the hope of a delay, even for a few hours.

"Look, it's life and death," said Mr Stafford Smith. "If there is even a 10 per cent chance of staving it off, you would take it, wouldn't you?"

And so, with deathly *déjà vu*, Nicholas Ingram yesterday prepared to die a second time.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

Execution updates: Vicki Gavalas, veteran of more than a dozen electrocutions, briefs the largely British media outside the prison

Choices before judge

JUDGE HORACE WARD issued the 24-hour reprieve because he said he needed more time to consider an appeal. That appeal has been turned down by two state courts (Ben Macintyre writes).

All state courts must consider an appeal before it is heard by the federal courts. If Judge Ward, the federal court judge, rejected it, the appeal would go to the 11th Circuit Court of *Appeals in Georgia and then, if rejected once more, to the US Supreme Court in Wash*ington. Nicholas Ingram would die if no further stay of execution was granted.

Judge Ward could reject the appeal, which would then pass to the higher appeals court. He could grant a longer stay of execution and allow the defence to present evidence at a future hearing.

At the end of that hearing, the judge could still rule against the appeal in which *case the process continues as before, or he could order a* retrial.

Women contenders punch their way into the big time

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

JILL MATTHEWS stopped *her opponent just 63 seconds into the first round* at Madison Square Garden, *turned to* the television *cameras* and *announced: "I want Tyson!"*

The 103lb hairdresser and part-time punk rocker from the Wall Street Boxing Club had just become one of the first women to win a title fight in the 68-year history of the fabled New York Golden Gloves amateur boxing tournament. Women were allowed to compete for the first time this year, following in the footsteps of such male boxing greats as Sugar Ray Leonard, Floyd Patterson and Rocky *Marciano*.

Now *some* are *dreaming* that one day *they* will be able to box in the Olympics — *or* even turn professional. Although somewhat less than lady-like, female boxing is becoming a popular sport as *many women* graduate from *"boxercise" aerobics classes to the real thing.*

USA Boxing, the sport's governing *body, approved female participation in official* events in 1993 after the American Civil Liberties Union filed a sex-discrimination suit on behalf of a 16-year-old Seattle girl who had been barred from fighting. The organisation says that 280 of its 23,500 registered amateur fighters are now women.

Unlike male boxers, women must wear protective chest pads as well as head gear and sign a waiver stating that they *are not pregnant.* But they box *the same three rounds as their male role-models.*

This year, 30 women *competed in nine* weight classes in the New York Golden Gloves, ranging from a former female judo champion and a prison guard to a Manhattan film producer *and an architectural consultant with an Ivy League degree. The finals were held in the Madison Square Garden* arena where *Muhammad* Ali once met Joe Frazier.

Ms Matthews, 31, put up a splendid fight against Dee Hamaguchi, 30, a martial arts instructor from Harlem. With fans on their feet, the referee stopped the bout after giving Ms Hamaguchi two standing eight-counts in the first minute.

Relishing her victory, Ms Matthews seemed undaunted by the risk she runs of black eyes or a broken nose. "I'll just do what every Jewish woman does," she explained. "I'll get a nose job."

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Simpson hearing grinds to a halt

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

AMBUSHED by a volley of misconduct allegations *and a mysterious outbreak of* flu, the O.J. Simpson *murder trial* has ground to a *halt that may* yet prove permanent.

In the wake of a candid interview given by the latest juror to be thrown off the case, the judge has launched a delicate inquiry into the conduct of the remaining jurors. Police, too, are being investigated for allegedly promoting racial strife among the jurors.

Mr Simpson's lawyers, while insisting that they will not seek a mistrial, have accused the prosecution of trying to *purge* the jury of defence "supporters" and of harassing potential expert defence witnesses. Judge Lance Ito *may be forced to declare a mistrial, however, if he decides that the sequestered jury has been tainted, as alleged by the dismissed juror.*

Three jurors went down with flu on Thursday, *ruling* out further *testimony then* or yesterday. Monday has been scheduled as a rest day.

The court vehemently denied rumours suggesting that the sick jurors belonged to a pro-Simpson clique and were protesting against the dismissal of Jeanette Harris, one of their colleagues, on Wednesday.

As the trial descended towards farce, the Los Angeles District Attorney reiterated his confidence in his prosecution staff, their search for the truth about the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman, and his faith in the jury system.

The chaotic court situation at the end of the week arose after Mrs Harris was dismissed as a juror for allegedly concealing a past incident of domestic violence during the jury-screening process. Then, *she disclosed that the jurors* were prematurely discussing possible verdicts, and were being allowed unmonitored telephone conversations with friends and family exposed to media coverage of the case.

Both prosecutors and defence lawyers were dismayed by the latest turn of events, which interrupted a critical phase of the trial. Eleven weeks after the prosecution portrayed Mr Simpson as a murderous and jealous wife-beater, the spotlight has settled on a pair of bloody gloves — *one* found near his former *wife's mutilated body* on the night of the killings last June, and the other in an alley on Mr Simpson's grounds two miles away.

The prosecution team argue that the gloves form a crucial link in a trail of blood which incriminates the former footballer and film star.

Clinton goes on offensive in California

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON finally went on the offensive yesterday to try to blunt the impact of the Republicans' juggernaut of reforms in Congress. Newt Gingrich, the Republican Speaker, had the last word, however, with a prime-time television address to the nation, an event normally *reserved for presidents.*

Mr Clinton flew to Dallas, and then to California *after* angry exchanges with *fellow Democrats from Congress. During a private meeting* at the White House, they accused him of not doing enough to tell the American public where he stands on key policy topics. According to witnesses, he grew excitable and animated and stood up to declare firmly: "I've done a lot."

The President has largely avoided confrontation with the Republicans since they took control of Congress in November and set about passing their *Contract with America* in the House of Representatives. Now he intends to portray them as *extremists,* threatening programmes for children, *the poor* and the elderly with tax *and spending* cuts. He will also focus on the need to do more for education and worker training. Mr Clinton's aides said the outlines of his re-election campaign are beginning to emerge, 19 months before polling day. He wants to keep potential challengers off balance, among them Robert Casey, the former Governor of Pennsylvania, and Senator Bob Kerrey of Nebraska.

The President's visit to California underscores the importance of carrying the Golden State, which accounts for one-fifth of the electoral college votes needed for victory. Voters there are, however, growing increasingly conservative.

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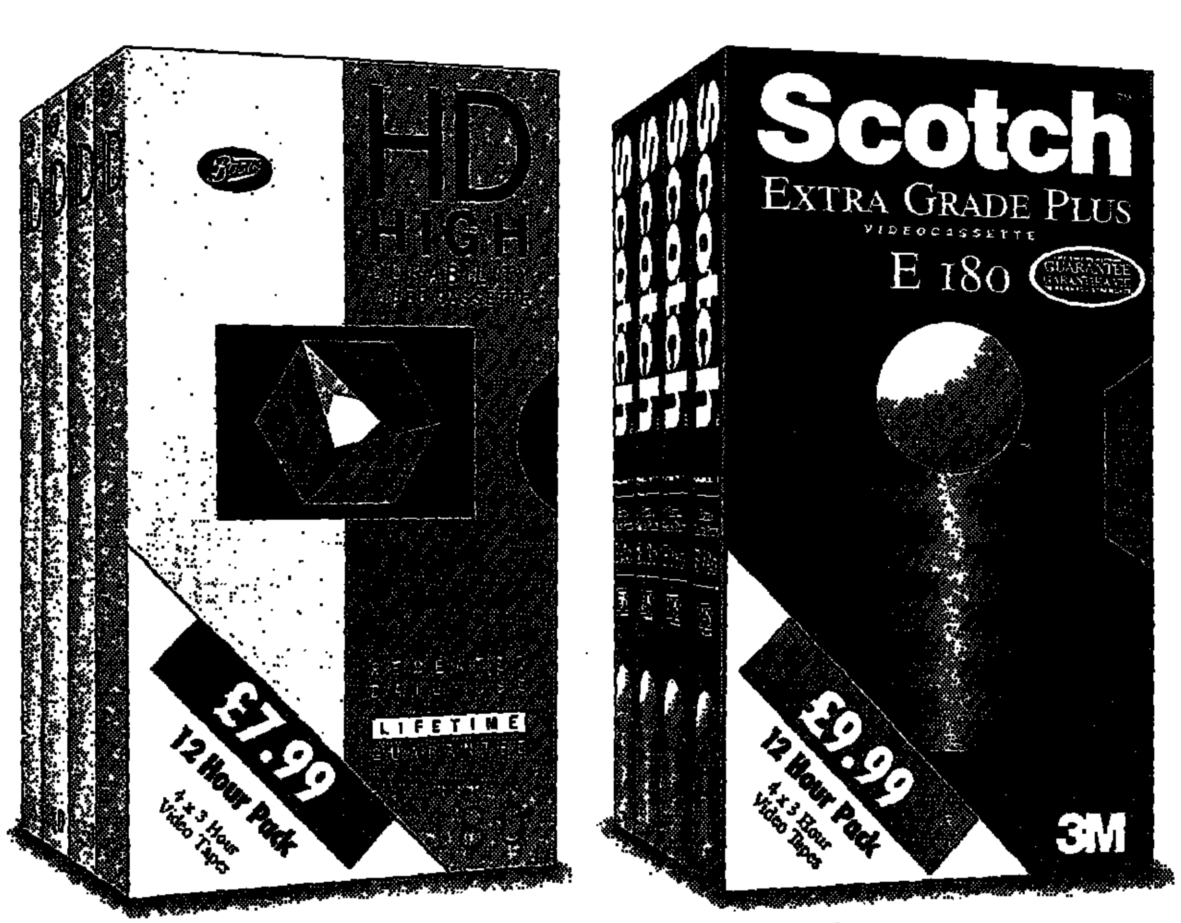

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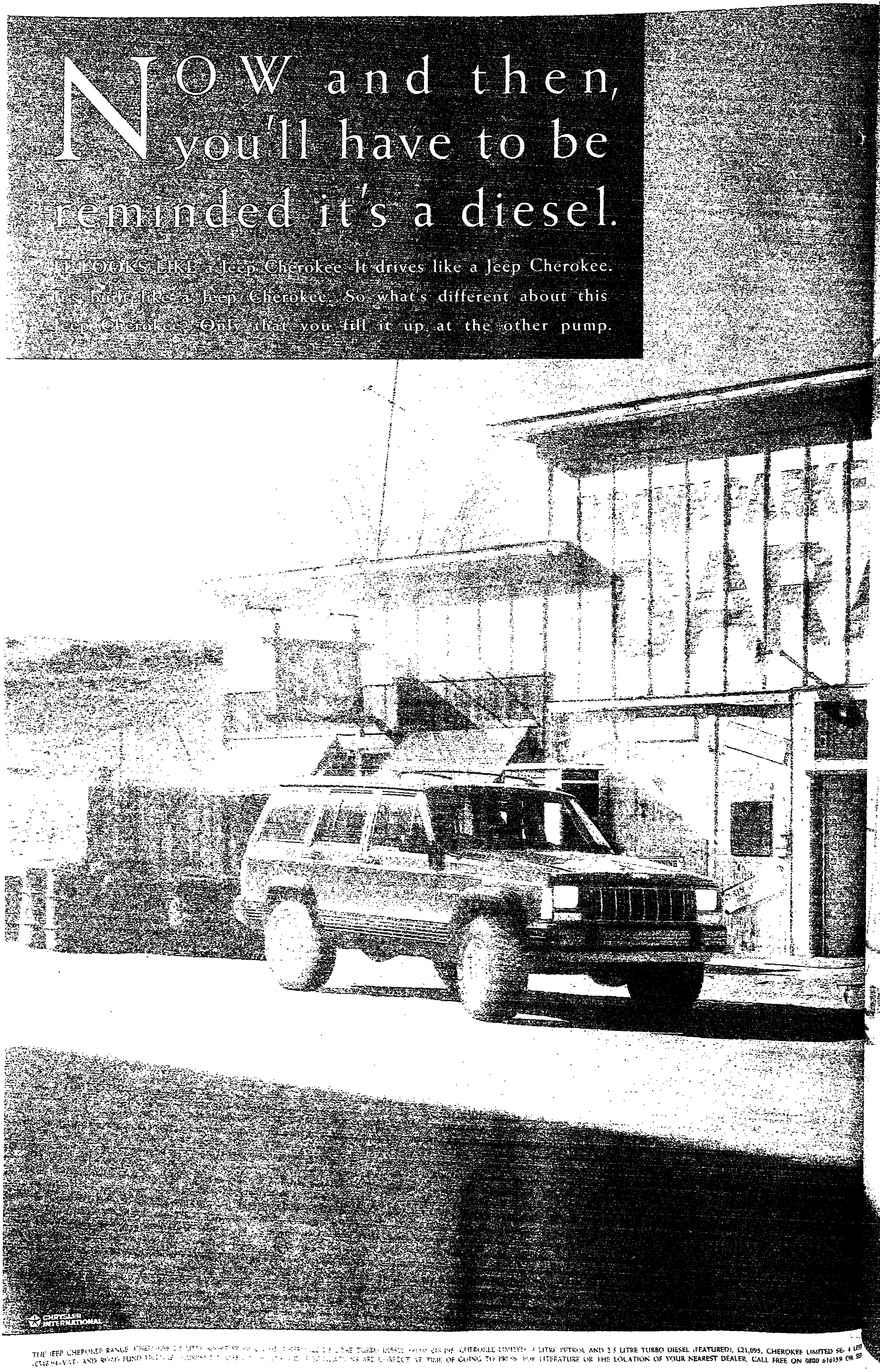

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Last gasp deal agreed to curb greenhouse gases

From Nick Nuttall, Environment Correspondent, in Berlin

THE world's nations yesterday agreed an historic deal to cut emissions of greenhouse gases as the Berlin climate summit reached a tense but positive conclusion.

Up to the final minutes British officials were expecting an Opec nation to block a European Union-led move to broker a deal. The concern gave way to ripples of spontaneous applause, however, as Angela Merkel, the young German Environment Minister presiding over her first big international conference, smashed her gavel to adopt the key document without a single hand being raised in protest.

John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, said: "We have got a genuine document that actually commits [us] to reductions." British and German officials said the agreement also highlighted the growing stature of the European Union on the international stage and its ability to co-operate successfully at world summits.

Asked what the agreement meant to a man in Middlesbrough or a woman in Manila, Mr Gummer said: "It means we have a real chance of avoiding climate change. If we build on this, the likely increase in temperature can be significantly mitigated. Therefore their children can have some confidence we will protect them from the worst."

Representatives from more than 100 nations have for 14 days been attempting to thrash out a mandate that will take the United Nation's climate convention into the 21st century. At the Rio Earth Summit in 1992 industrialised nations agreed to stabilise emissions from power stations, industry and traffic at 1990 levels by 2000.

CLIMATE SUMMIT

The new agreement requires actual cuts beyond 2000 while also agreeing to timetables and dates by which these will be achieved. The size of the cuts and the dates by which they must be met will be decided between now and 1997 when nations sign up.

At the request of the Russian Federation, the Berlin mandate will also require nations to promote "carbon sinks". These are natural areas of forest or wetlands that absorb and lock away greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. Deforestation and the reclaiming of wetlands and mangrove swamps for agriculture and development are damaging these natural filters.

Hopes of achieving yesterday's agreement had looked slim earlier in the week with the United States, Australia and Canada resisting calls for gas reductions for economic and political reasons. The United States, in particular, was after a firm commitment from developing nations to share the burden of cutting carbon pollution. Opec nations were also in an uncompromising mood.

Meanwhile an alliance of small island states, backed by Greenpeace and the World Wide Fund for Nature, were demanding that the documents specify a cut in emissions of a fifth by 2005.

After the agreement was announced delegates from Fiji and Samoa, which are threatened by rising sea levels triggered by global warming, made emotional speeches to the conference. They urged rich countries to adopt their tough targets by the 1997 deadline. Tuiloma Slade of Samoa said: "We will not allow the world to barter our homeland, our people and our culture for short-term economics."

Later the powerful American oil and industry lobby signalled its anger over the deal and promised to put further pressure on the Clinton Administration. John Shlaes, executive director of the Global Climate Coalition, said the failure to tie in developing nations puts American jobs, economic activity and international competitiveness at "grave risk".

"The agreement reached by the UN negotiators at Berlin gives developing countries like China, India and Mexico a free ride," he said.

Mr Shlaes cited UN estimates that by 2005 developing and former Eastern bloc nations will emit 68 per cent of man-made greenhouse gases. UN figures also estimate that by 2025 China will emit more than the United States, Japan and Canada combined.

Leading article, page 19

Historian lifts veil on myth of Buchenwald resistance

From Roger Boyes in Bonn

THE ghosts of Buchenwald concentration camp are on the loose. As about 1,000 of the Nazi camp survivors gather this weekend to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation, a bitter argument has erupted about how a group of privileged German Communist prisoners held the real power in the camp.

Professor Lutz Niethammer, a historian, has evidence to shatter one of the most abiding political myths of the East German state. For four decades the Communist group in Buchenwald were regarded as martyrs to fascism, and were icons for the East German leadership. Only after the Berlin Wall came down did most Germans notice the blemishes in the history of the camp.

Almost 250,000 prisoners were held in Buchenwald. The tightly organised Communists gradually seized control of the prisoner hierarchy as a way of staying alive. They became trusties in the hospital, pharmacy, canteen and other critical points. The Communists, known as the Red Kapos, played a double game, running the camp for SS guards, and at the same time organising resistance.

The argument is how to interpret this double role. The testimonials excavated from Communist Party archives paint a damning picture. The SS left it up to the Communist prisoners running the hospital to decide who should be injected with experimental viruses. This power allowed the Communist prisoners to save lives, but often fellow Communists were spared and dissident Communists or non-Germans were executed. Communists also functioned as informers for the Gestapo.

Former Communist inmates have hit back at Professor Niethammer. "It's shameful and absurd," said Emile Carlebach, a Jew. Willy Schmidt, a printer, asked yesterday: "Who led 21,000 surviving prisoners out of the concentration camp? Communist prisoners are being put on a par with their Nazi captors — that is a fundamental deceit."

Andrei Reba, a camp survivor from Ukraine, beside a Buchenwald cremation oven yesterday

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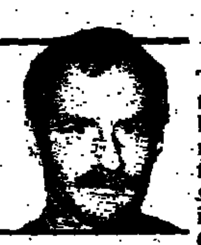
Young adviser rejuvenates old campaigner

Jacques Chirac, the presidential candidate, with his daughter, Claude, credited with transforming his campaign

Chirac père dances to daughter's tune

PARIS FILE

by CHARLES BREMNER



IF YOU watch Jacques Chirac as he storms around France near the end of his long march for the presidency, you will notice a graceful young woman with short hair hovering always within his sight. At a nod from her, the Gaullist favourite winds up his speech and awaits the next signal.

The woman named Claude is far more than a young minder. She is the mistress of his movements, the keeper of his door and is, in the view of many, the power behind *le Chirac nouveau*, shorthand for the formula that has turned the two-times presidential loser into a likely victor. There is another detail: she is also his daughter.

If Claude Chirac, 31, is a largely unsung phenomenon of *Campagne '95*, it is because she insists on the lowest of profiles. But those who know this "sexy tomboy", as she has been dubbed, give her much of the credit for the rejuvenation of M Chirac. "He trusts her like no-one else. She is his confidante and she gives him confidence almost like a mother," a friend says.

As a party leader wounded by the betrayals of Edouard Balladur, the Prime Minister, and a clutch of Gaullist barons, M Chirac prizes loyalty. Watching Mme Chirac briskly directing the action in Brittany this week, cellphone glued to her ear, one of her colleagues noted: "Others provide the intellectual input, but Claude takes care of every detail, and she can give him honest criticism as only a daughter can."

Mme Chirac is the second of two children of Jacques and the formidable Bernadette Chirac. Laurence, her older sister, is a doctor who has had a long struggle with mental illness. After stints in advertising and as a veterinary nurse, Mme Chirac began advising her father.

After his defeat in 1988, she stuck with his kitchen cabinet for his long "crossing of the desert", learning the tricks of the trade from Nicholas Sarkozy, who switched camps to join M Balladur's Cabinet.

Mme Chirac's private life is never aired. In 1992, she married Philippe Habert, a political scientist. Eight months later, just after the Gaullists won the parliamentary elections, Habert was found dead from an overdose of alcohol and drugs.

Mme Chirac threw herself into the campaign, working from a small office over the famed Café Flore on the Boulevard Saint Germain. A lover of pop music and American films, she brought in American campaign ideas and worked on "letting Chirac be Chirac". This meant helping the often overbearing Gaullist politician show his relaxed and *sympathique* side as he quietly toured the country listening to the concerns of the people. By last month, the campaign had paid off.

The Mona Lisa smiles again

Anyone planning a cultural jaunt in Paris for Easter should keep an eye on the news. Staff at the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay, the two main art houses, have been on strike this week; 34 national museums in all were closed. Frustrated tourists have milled around the Louvre's glass pyramid, voicing disbelief that they were to be deprived of their once-in-a-lifetime glimpse of the Mona Lisa. *The smile returned to their faces last night when the Louvre opened its doors, promising business as usual for this weekend at least.*

Warning shot puts Lotharios on alert

THE American preoccupation with sexual harassment has long been the object of mockery in France, a country which views *l'art de seduction* as one of life's imperatives. The Socialist Government did pass a law in 1992, making it an offence for anyone to "abuse their superior position with a view to obtaining sexual favours from an employee", but not much has changed.

Newspapers, which still blithely refer to the charms of women ministers, have only reported a few cases, mainly involving what *les anglo-saxons* would consider assault. This week, however, office Lotharios have received something of a wake-up call with the arrest of a senior judge.

Bernard Krauss, 50, president of the court at the city of Sens, was charged with harassment after complaints from an examining magistrate and the clerk to the court that he had forced his attentions on them.

Feminists, however, say they have few illusions that France has reached a turning point, given that many women continue to tell pollsters that they regard *le droit de cuissage* to be a fact of French life. Only 20 per cent consider they have been victims of harassment, according to a recent survey, compared with 59 per cent in Britain and 88 per cent in the United States.

Surprise 'spoiler' in French election

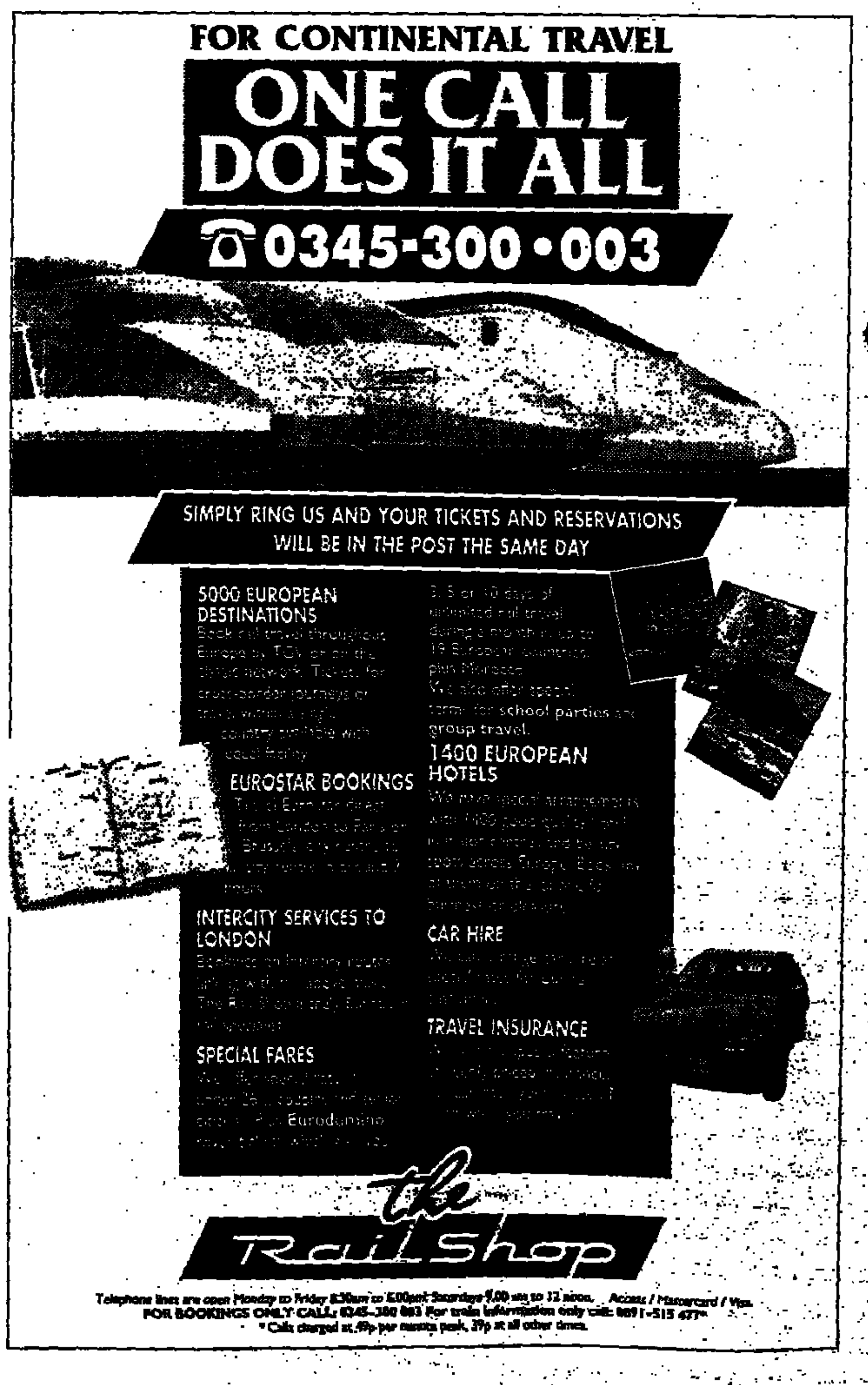
JACQUES CHEMINADE, a maverick rightwinger, caused a surprise yesterday by clearing the legal hurdles to be among nine candidates vying for the French presidency.

M Cheminade, 53, an associate of Lyndon Larouche, the American right-wing extremist, gathered the endorsement of 500 elected officials from at least 30 regions, a requirement that forced a host of minor candidates out of the race. Mr Larouche was convicted of fraud and tax evasion in 1989 and stood for President of the United States in 1992 from prison. He was released last year.

"My ambition is to be a goad and a spoil-sport," M Cheminade, a graduate of the elite ENA civil service school, said in a radio interview. He is not listed in opinion polls and insists he does not fall into any political category. He blames a "financial cancer" for France's ills, denied his ill-defined Federation for a New Solidarity was on the extreme Right and demanded equal media time and space to counter such claims. He polled just 0.6 per cent in European Parliament elections last year.

☐ The final list of candidates is: Philippe de Villiers (Nationalist); Jean-Marie Le Pen (National Front); Jacques Chirac (Gaullist); Arlette Laguiller (Workers' Struggle); Jacques Cheminade (New Solidarity); Lionel Jospin (Socialist); Dominique Voynet (Greens); Edouard Balladur (Gaullist); and Robert Hue (Communist).

Polling is on April 23. The two top candidates go on to a run-off on May 7. *(Reuter)*



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Hopes of fish deal fade after Spanish boats are harassed

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS AND RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

EUROPEAN Union and Canadian negotiators resumed their talks on the North Atlantic "halibut war" yesterday as most European governments leaned towards the Spanish fishermen in the dispute.

EU officials have been trying to apply pressure to both sides to reach a settlement, which had appeared close this week. Tempers flared, however, after Spanish boats were harassed by Canadian fishery protection vessels.

Britain is trying to persuade the Canadian Government to give a little ground. Several EU governments, including Germany, are pressing Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, to settle the issue before it disrupts the Union throughout the summer.

Majority opinion supports Spain and resents the British support for the Canadian position. Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, can expect criticism on Monday when EU foreign ministers meet in Luxembourg.

European Commission officials yesterday produced a copy of the report prepared by British fishery inspectors who looked over the *Estai*, a Spanish trawler, after it had been released by the Canadian authorities. The Canadian seizure of the ship off Newfoundland triggered the dispute last month. The report discloses no irregularities. The officials also circulated a diagram sent by a Spanish protection vessel showing how three Canadian ships had surrounded a Spanish trawler, training searchlights and spraying water on the deck.

Canadian officials were still hopeful of an agreement that could be signed on Monday between Brussels and Ottawa. Canadian negotiators were trying to heal the rift caused by a serious provocative incident at sea involving three Canadian fisheries patrol vessels and Spanish trawlers off the Grand Banks.

> ‘We caught the Spaniards with their nets down and they panicked and scurried out’

Brian Tobin, the Canadian Fisheries Minister, continued to bluster and engage in bravado despite the conciliatory position adopted by the rest of the Canadian Government and officials in Brussels taking part in conservation talks with the EU. A Spanish fishing trawler captain reported to Madrid that the Canadians had cut his nets and tried to board his ship on Thursday. The accusation led to a blunt protest from Jacques Santer, the European Commission president. In Ottawa Mr Tobin said that the allegation was nonsense.

He admitted that several Canadian vessels had come close to the Spanish trawlers in the fog but he explained that was only so that they could identify the trawlers and see first hand if they were using illegal nets.

He also admitted that one Canadian patrol vessel had passed within nine-tenths of a mile of one of the Spanish trawlers, another had come alongside 600ft away and a third had passed astern.

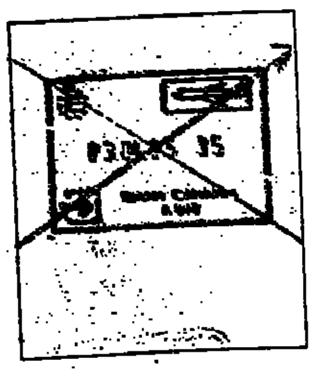
Canadian officials believe that the Spanish captains mistakenly thought they were about to be boarded and panicked, throwing their motors into high gear and speeding away. Their nets, some of which were dragging the bottom of the ocean, were ripped off.

"We caught them with their nets down and they panicked," Mr Tobin said. "They pulled them in a big hurry and scurried out of the zone." Canadian officials say privately that it may have been a mistake on the part of the Spanish captains but admit that the Canadians may have indeed come too close to the Spanish trawlers in their efforts to monitor the turbot fishing.

Earlier this week Mr Tobin admitted that Canada has been using British-made, Canadian Navy submarines to monitor and keep track of the Spanish fishing fleet during the turbot war.

Canadian defence officials have been lobbying intensely for more than a year, so far without success, for Canada to buy four more British-made Oberon class submarines from Britain. The four 30-year-old British submarines carry a price tag of $800 million (£500 million), which is less than half what the Royal Navy paid for them.

A Spanish ship viewed from a Canadian submarine



Canadian family deported in holiday dispute

BY MARIANNE DARCH AND DOMINIC KENNEDY

A FAMILY living in the Cotswolds became unwitting victims of the Atlantic fish war when they were deported from the Canary Islands without setting foot on the beach.

A preparatory schoolboy, his mother and grandmother were ordered to get back on their plane and return to Britain as part of the Spanish retaliation against the Canadians for cutting fishermen's nets off Newfoundland.

The police chief at Las Palmas airport appeared to relish his task of preventing the tearful family, who have Canadian passports, from beginning their holiday.

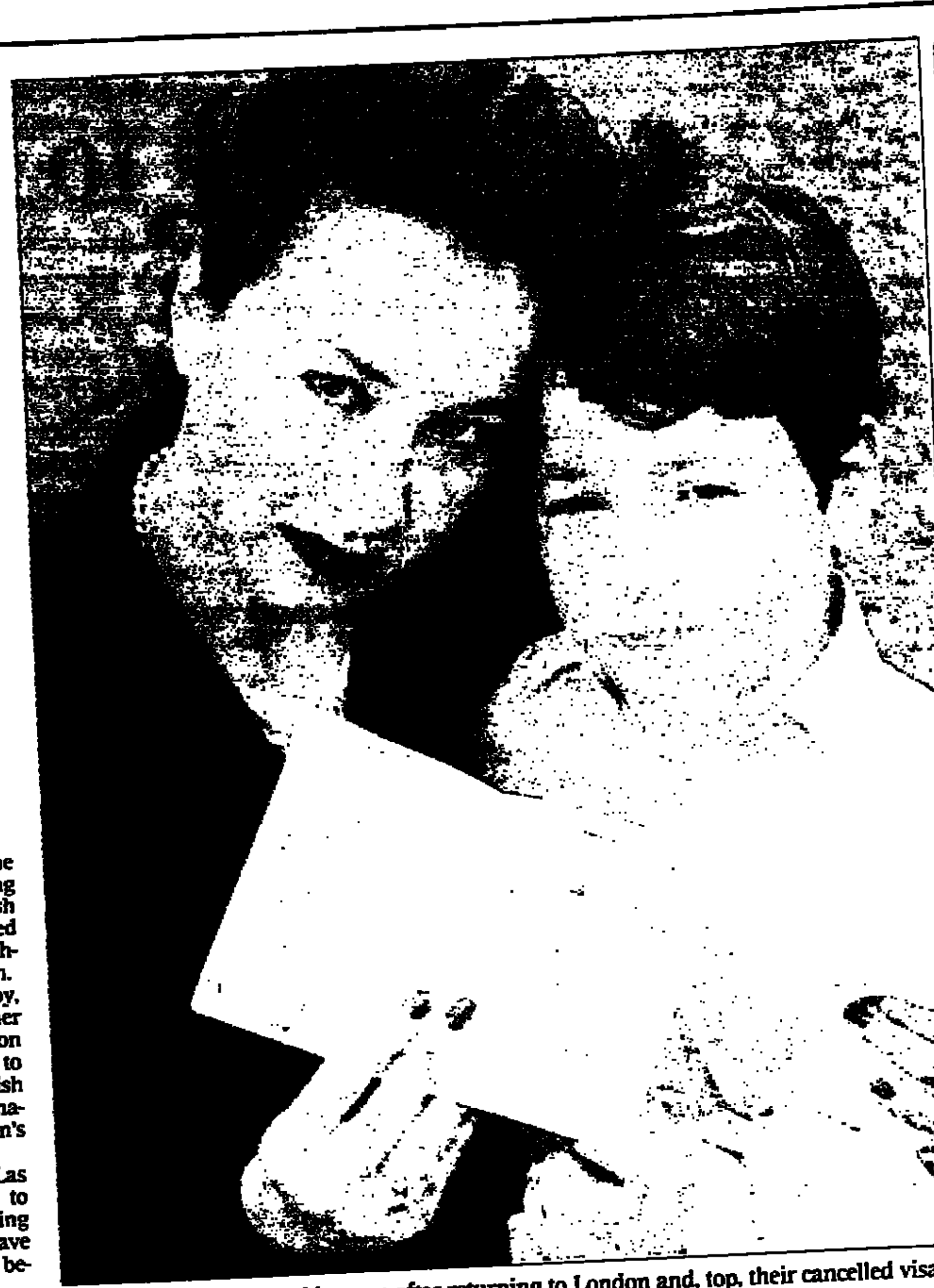
Marie-Rose Mociornitza, 28, a refugee who fled Ceausescu's Romania for Canada when she was a child, said she had experienced nothing to equal the rudeness of the Spanish officials, even under a communist dictatorship. "I have never known anyone so arrogant," she said yesterday. "I will never try to visit Spain again. I think my next holiday will be to a health farm to get over this."

Mrs Mociornitza, her son Joseph, 10, and her mother Rosette were told by the gleeful official that a new law required Canadian citizens to hold visas for travel to Spain. Their passports were stamped and they were ordered to return to Britain.

The Association of British Travel Agents yesterday criticised Spain for introducing the visa rule without warning. "It was brought in four days ago but they didn't tell us about it," said Keith Betten, head of corporate affairs for Abta. He urged tourists to demand compensation from Spain. The family insist that they checked with the Spanish Embassy in London and were told Canadians did not need visas.

The Spanish Tourist Office in London said: "Because things developed so quickly there was no opportunity to give much forewarning of the decision." The Canadian High Commission in London said Canada had raised no objection to the new visa regime and would not retaliate.

In Ottawa it was confirmed last night that a number of Canadians who found themselves in Spain without visas have been detained by Spanish police and immigration officials, before being put back on the first plane back to Canada.



Mrs Mociornitza and her son after returning to London and, top, their cancelled visa

UN troops challenge Serbs at roadblock

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

IN AN unusually risky venture, French United Nations troops attempted to seize control of a Bosnian Serb checkpoint on the main route to Sarajevo, yesterday. UN officers said they intended to "enforce" their right to reach the capital.

About 40 soldiers from the French Foreign Legion remained in a tense confrontation with 50 Serbs at the contested point late yesterday. Hundreds more peacekeepers and Serb soldiers were poised near by to join in if tension turned to violence. The Serbs are wearing some of the 126 French Army bullet-proof combat vests they confiscated from a UN lorry several weeks ago.

Apparently warned of the UN's intentions, the Serbs reinforced the checkpoint on Thursday. They threatened to destroy the four French armoured personnel carriers and attack the peacekeepers if they did not retreat by 9am yesterday. The French troops stood their ground.

UN commanders deliberated for months over yesterday's gambit. In the past three months Serb soldiers in the area of the checkpoint have confiscated 15 vehicles, eight weapons ranging from pistols to anti-tank rockets, communications equipment and the briefcase of Brigadier Cedric Delves, the British commander of all special forces.

According to a 1992 agreement between the UN and the Serbs, peacekeepers have "freedom of movement" on the road from Sarajevo airport to the capital. The UN has, however, suffered a string of humiliations on the spot where the checkpoint stands.

Russian security shake-up revives KGB 'in new guise'

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

RUSSIAN human rights campaigners said yesterday that a new law reorganising the security service, signed by President Yeltsin this week, restores many of the powers of the old KGB and threatens civil rights in the country.

Under the law, which was passed by the Russian parliament last December, the Counter Intelligence Service (FSK), is renamed the Federal Security Service (FSB) and is given expanded powers.

The Federal Security Service will once again have independent rights of telephone tapping, general supervision, arrest, and detention at its own centres. None of this will apparently require prior consent from the courts or parliament; though, as usual in Russia, the provisions of the law are very loosely drawn. The service will also have its own limited armed forces, and will be able to set up its own commercial companies — something that former KGB officers have in any case been doing for a long time. It will also be allowed to operate abroad once again, though only in conjunction with the Foreign Intelligence Service.

The justification for the change has been given as the need to fight organised crime, which now controls much of the Russian economy. The surprisingly easy agreement of most parliamentary deputies to the law, and the astonishing silence of almost all the Russian media, are partly explained by the fact that both groups have come under attack from criminal groups; three deputies and a prominent television director have been killed.

What worries the parliamentary opposition far more than the Federal Security Service changes is the growing power of the President's own security service, headed by the notorious commander of the presidential guard, General Alexander Korzhakov. By strengthening state security, deputies apparently feel they will do something to clip the general's wings.

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Secret memo offers Suharto frank advice on error of Indonesia's ways

Habibie: technology guru under fire

FROM DAVID WATTS IN JAKARTA

A 17-PAGE critique of President Suharto's Government that landed on the Indonesian leader's desk from an anonymous source is the talk of the capital.

Somehow the missive circumvented his private secretaries so it can only have been the work of someone with good access. Someone, too, who is unafraid to say what he really thinks about the Cabinet in a Government that has been notorious for rewarding excessive frankness with dispatch to the political wilderness.

The document is all the more remarkable because it is not only critical of some of President Suharto's favourites but it comes at a time when there is a feeling of change in the air after 30 years of the present leadership. The President is on record as saying that he will not run again, yet all the signs are that he is tightening his grip on power with no sign of a significant challenger in sight.

The indications are that the letter is the work of one of the President's old military colleagues, seeking a return to some of the values that motivated the Government when the young Colonel Suharto took over from the dissolute and discredited President Sukarno at the head of the world's largest Muslim nation. Perhaps it is no coincidence that one of those coming in for criticism is B.J. Habibie, the President's technology guru, and one of those believed to be among the front-runners to succeed him. Mr Habibie, father of the Indonesian aircraft industry, is an astonishing figure who is able to use apparently unlimited sums in bringing Indonesia into the ranks of the technologically advanced countries. His two latest schemes, however, have brought him trenchant criticism.

The most controversial was the purchase for hundreds of millions of dollars of what remained of the former East German Navy. Most of the ships now rust in Surabaya naval base, stripped of their weaponry and facing the Government with the prospect of a big bill to make them viable or to scrap them.

Mr Habibie's pet project is a new regional turboprop airliner which is being developed with fly-by-wire technology at a cost of about $600 million (£385 million) at a time when there is a glut of such airliners in the world. Worse still, he plans to build it in the United States which already has the world's most advanced aviation industry. His critics say he has no business promoting such schemes when Indonesia remains one of the poorest countries in the world with a national debt already approaching $100 billion.

But since he has the President's ear there is no one to rein him in. When the *Tempo* news magazine wrote about the naval fiasco the President closed the magazine and ordered other publishers not to employ its journalists. "If they didn't like my driving they could have taken away my driving licence," said Fikri Jufri, editor of the defunct magazine. "But they took away my car as well." With *Tempo* gone there is little in the way of hard-headed political analysis in the media. The Government has since cracked down on the leading daily, *Kompas*.

President Suharto has provided the stability necessary for economic development. Despite an indifferent export record over the past year, there is no shortage of foreign investment and Exxon recently reached an agreement with the Government on a $35 billion project to develop the oil resources around the Natuna islands which will be overseen by Mr Habibie.

However, the narrowing of politics has seen an important change in the role of the army. Once seen as having an important dual function in promoting development as well as maintaining order, the officer class now seems more intent on getting rich with a corresponding reduction in its influence at court.

The prize could go to a man some see as the modern equivalent of the young Suharto. He is Colonel Prabowo, the son-in-law of the President and deputy commander-in-chief of the Indonesian Special Forces. Still in his early 40s, he has already served as military commander in East Timor and is building himself up as a national figure. To give him time to mature, the President might be persuaded that another term is necessary.

Delhi court drops ban on British-trained doctors

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

INDIAN doctors with British qualifications will be allowed to practise in their country after a ruling by Delhi High Court yesterday. For 20 years the Medical Council of India has refused to recognise medical degrees from Britain.

The ban was challenged by Professor Ashok Prasad, a British-trained psychiatrist and medical anthropologist, who has been working in the United States for six years and decided to return home. He discovered that he could not do so because of a rule imposed in 1975 by the Medical Council, under which British medical degrees were derecognised.

Even doctors sent to Britain on Indian Government scholarships found they could not work in their own country, except in the relatively small number of private hospitals. "Hundreds of Indian doctors in Britain who wanted to return home could not do so because this rule made it almost impossible to find employment," Dr Prasad said.

The rule was officially imposed in protest at the introduction in the mid-1970s of a test given to foreign doctors primarily to prove proficiency in English before being allowed to practise. It also asks some basic medical questions.

The real reason for derecognising British degrees may have been related to some kind of personal vendetta against the British medical establishment by the then president of the Medical Council of India. "A whole generation of doctors who wanted to return home has been caught in this trap," Dr Prasad said. "My British qualifications were good enough for the United States but not good enough for India. After this ruling, I will be able to come home permanently."

Dr Prasad said it was paradoxical that most Indian VIPs who went to Britain for medical treatment at government expense saw doctors who were not allowed to practise in their own country.

"I am sure that hundreds of Indian doctors in Britain stayed reluctantly in Britain because of this stupid rule," he added. "Some of the highest officials in the Indian Government were unaware of it. The Government has even placed advertisements in the papers asking for British-qualified doctors to return home to take up specific positions, unaware that it was not possible for them to do so."

The Medical Council claims the rule was introduced because Britain imposed restrictions on doctors coming from India. Dr Prasad said Indian doctors in Britain generally saw no objections to the test. It was reasonable to establish that a would-be practitioner in Britain spoke English adequately.

He believed the Medical Council had acted beyond its authority in taking an unilateral decision. "The Delhi High Court agreed, and declared the ruling null and void on the grounds that the council had acted *ultra vires*. The only people who have suffered are Indian medical graduates in Britain."

Monaj Prasad, Dr Prasad's lawyer, said the ruling will open up far more job opportunities to Indian doctors in Britain who want to return home.

The Medical Council of India said last night it had no comment.

In London, Dr Krishnarao Korlipara, a member of the GPs' committee of the British Medical Association, said the Delhi ruling was likely to matter to only a handful of Asian doctors practising in Britain.

"It will be of no more than academic interest to most. The quality of life is better here and I would not expect any immediate effect," he said. "But in the longer term it may be that some with roots in India will want to make exploratory visits to see if life there offers something. As the infrastructure improves, return to the home country may become more attractive."

Bombay bans anti-bigotry film

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

BOMBAY police yesterday banned the opening of Bollywood's controversial new film about a Hindu and Muslim falling in love, running away and having a child, because they feared it would spark religious riots. The move is a measure of the depth of religious strife in India.

The film, *Bombay*, touches a raw nerve in a country where marriage across the religious divide is rare. Few Hindus could conceive of marrying outside their own caste, let alone faith.

Muslims object to the film because the Hindu man lifts the veil of his Muslim lover, revealing her face. They also complain that the film gives the impression that Muslims were responsible for religious riots in late 1992 and early 1993 in Bombay, in which at least 700 died. Most victims were Muslims. Police said they would decide in eight days' time whether to allow the film to open.

Some of the film's most controversial scenes have been cut for fear of offending religious sentiments. The city has more than a million Muslims and 11 million Hindus. Muslim leaders had threatened a mass march to the city's Excelsior Cinema, where the film was to have officially opened, raising the prospect of a riot.

The film has been banned indefinitely in the sensitive southern city of Hyderabad and several towns in the southern state of Karnataka. One censored scene depicts a Hindu religious leader lamenting his role in the Bombay riots. This clearly refers to Bal Thackeray, leader of the extremist Shiv Sena organisation, which gained power in Bombay last month. Mr Thackeray said the scene was inaccurate, because he regretted nothing. The film is based on the Bombay riots and the struggle of the lovers to rise above religious bigotry.

A crocodile rears up on its hindlegs in an enclosure which was opened at Taronga Zoo in Sydney, Australia, yesterday. The Serpentine enclosure, which cost £15 million, was built to provide more space for the zoo's reptiles

Mugabe's secret marriage and fatherhood disclosed

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

AN UNEXPECTED side to the ascetic President Mugabe, 71, has been revealed with the news that he secretly married a much younger woman in 1992 and had two children by her even before that.

Horizon, a Harare magazine, quoted the 80-year-old uncle of Grace Marufu as confirming that Mr Mugabe paid *lobola*, the traditional bride price, in late 1992 for Grace Marufu, a secretary in her early 30s who works in his office. He did so 11 months after the death of Sally, his Ghanaian-born first wife.

The magazine published a picture of Bona, the couple's six-year-old younger child leaving Harare's Dominican Convent school with a chauffeur carrying her school case, inscribed "B.Mugabe". The couple's first child, named Robert after his father, is about a year older, according to *Horizon*. The magazine says it was Sally Mugabe who encouraged the President to take a second wife "who could bear him children since her own deteriorating health prevented her from doing so". The report at last makes public one of Zimbabwe's most privately discussed subjects. Mr Mugabe is expected formally to announce his marriage after this weekend's elections.

Mugabe: polygamy is expected of leaders

The announcement will correct two of his main shortcomings as a traditional leader. Such leaders are expected to be polygamous and to father many children.

The news of the President's marriage came as he and the hierarchy of his ruling Zanu (PF) party wound up a feverish election campaign aimed solely at trying to induce people to vote in parliamentary elections at the weekend. The party was assured of a majority three weeks ago when a badly co-ordinated boycott by several opposition parties gave it 55 seats. On top of this Mr Mugabe selects another 30 of 150 seats. The results in most of the other 65 constituencies are seen as a formality.

Journalist killed in Burundi

Bujumbura: Gunmen killed a South African television producer and two Burundians and wounded another South African journalist in an ambush on Thursday, while in Rwanda more than 25,000 people attended a reburial service for their former Prime Minister and 200 others massacred a year ago.

Vincent Francis, who worked for Worldwide Television News (WTN), was the first foreigner killed in Burundi since three Belgians were shot and killed by Hutu guerrillas on March 19. The South Africans, their Burundian driver and translator, were returning to Bujumbura from the northern town of Kayanza when they were ambushed and robbed in what a cameraman said was clearly an attack by bandits. *(Reuter)*

Mystery blindness epidemic kills thousands of kangaroos

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

IT IS one of the saddest sights in the Australian outback. Thousands of blind kangaroos infected by an unexplained eye disease are slowly dying in the bush.

The outbreak is confined to South Australia, where country folk and wildlife officers have been shocked by the scale of the epidemic, for which there is no known cure.

The affected kangaroos, mainly western greys, have been spotted hopping head first into gum tree trunks and falling into rivers as they forage for food. In the tiny outback community of Morgan some have crashed into shopfront windows as they career blindly through the township. Most simply starve to death, unable to locate new grazing areas.

Wildlife officers have yet to to establish the cause of the blindness, though they suspect a virus is to blame. Even post-mortem examinations of some of the victims have failed to shed any light on the problem.

"We just do not know what's causing it," admits Peter Alexander, wildlife management officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "Something is causing lesions to the optic nerve in the brain and it appears to be spreading rapidly," he said.

He believes a combination of factors is responsible, including the exceptionally dry conditions and an increasing kangaroo population. "This creates stress in the animals and makes them more susceptible to disease."

Not that the animal conservation lobby needs be too alarmed just yet. The western grey, which represents about 25 per cent of South Australia's kangaroo population of nearly three million, is clearly not threatened with extinction. Nobody is sure how many kangaroos inhabit Australia as a whole, but the most recent estimates put the figure at 20 million, so they are hardly an endangered species.

Yet the Australians cannot help feeling sorry for these normally lithe and agile marsupials which are now reduced to stumbling through the outback in a blind panic.

Wildlife experts remain optimistic that the puzzling condition may soon disappear. There have been similar minor outbreaks among the kangaroo populations of New South Wales and Victoria in previous years, all of which have died out after a few months.

"It is highly likely that this epidemic, too will also be short-lived," Mr Alexander said.

WORLD SUMMARY

Land plan threatens PLO talks

Jerusalem: Plans to build 5,600 homes for Jews on occupied Arab land provoked a political storm yesterday and threatened negotiations between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (Christopher Walker writes).

Leaked documents disclosed that the latest settlements would be discussed tomorrow. "I do not see anything wrong with our intention to plan building in Greater Jerusalem," Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, the Housing Minister, said. But Shulamit Aloni, the Culture Minister, denounced the plan.

Iceland leader in close race

Reykjavik: David Oddsson, Iceland's Prime Minister, will need to mobilise his considerable personal following to win a second term in elections today. Opinion polls show his conservative Independence Party and its Social Democrat coalition partners in a tight race with four centre-left opposition parties for control of the 63-seat parliament. Up to 60 per cent of voters want him to stay on as Prime Minister, but only up to 38 per cent say they will vote for his party. *(Reuter)*

Claes faces bribes probe

Brussels: Belgium's parliament voted yesterday to allow the country's highest court to question three former ministers, including Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, over the "bribes for helicopters" defence contract scandal.

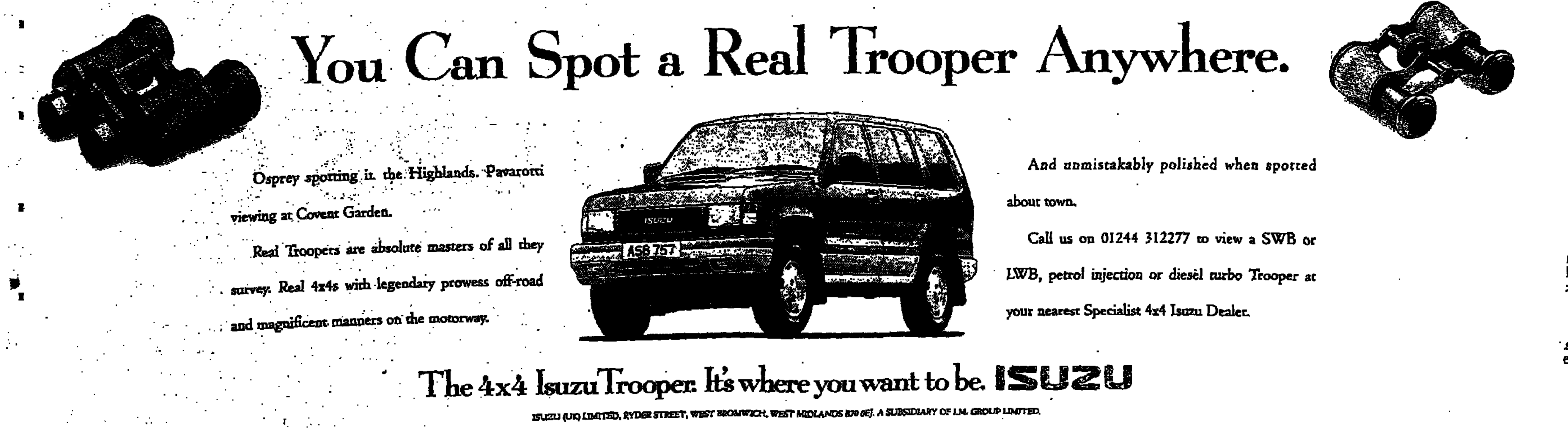
The scandal involves alleged bribes paid to the Flemish Socialist Party over a contract awarded in 1988. Mr Claes was Economics Affairs minister at the time. *(Reuter)*

Filipino rebels flee from troops

Ipil: A band of Muslim rebels managed to escape from Philippine troops yesterday after savage fighting in Mindanao island that left 12 guerrillas and five of their hostages dead, the military said. President Ramos has ordered an offensive against the rebels, remnants of a force that killed 45 people in the town of Ipil on Tuesday. *(Reuter)*

Last purification for art lovers

Milan: Visitors to Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece, *The Last Supper*, which returns to public viewing today, must be "purified" before being admitted. People must pass through two cabins, pausing for about 15 seconds in one, where filters will remove impurities and pump in clean air. *(AP)*



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Not quite so chic to be Labour

As Tories join Blair's bandwagon, the luvvies jump off, says **Anne McElvoy**

AS SCOTTISH Tories mourn their *nul points* result in the local elections and the party braces itself for another douse of electoral cold water in England and Wales in May, a good few hitherto staunch Tories must be eyeing Paul Johnson's re-defection to Labour — 20 years after he denounced it just as publicly in favour of Conservatism — and thinking that if New Labour is good enough for the crusty polemicist, it may not be such an unthinkable leap for them. Some 40 per cent of Conservatives quizzed by Gallup this week agreed that Mr Blair had changed Labour for the better.

The prospect of the splenetic Mr Johnson, whose natural cocktail party home these last years has been on the robust, anti-European Right, adorning Tony and Cherie's gentler Islington soirées, indicates how inexorably the tectonic plates underneath Labour are groaning and shifting.

Labour may be on the road to victory, but looks like providing such a mundane administration that the radical chic may fear becoming boring by association.

How different it was back in Labour's days of guaranteed electoral failure. At least its supporters could be sure that they were on the winning side in the style war. "Mixing pop and politics/ They ask me what the use is," mused atonal folk-rock singer Billy Bragg, who has campaigned for left-wing causes from the miners' strike onwards.

> 'The party faithful can sense a lack of warmth'

This did not stop Bragg, Paul Weller and a host of other sympathetic rock acts treading the boards for Neil Kinnock in the form of the nattily named collection of strumming cohorts, Red Wedge. Glamorous actresses like Juliet Stevenson, who played alongside the equally Socialist Alan Rickman in *Truly, Madly, Deeply*, and rebarbative humorists like Ben Elton and Stephen Fry could also be relied upon to provide a chorus of approval.

The Conservatives, on the other hand, have never been able to produce anything more modestly trendy than the late Kenny Everett and the mellifluous but dated Lyndsey de Paul (although when you come to think of it, her hit, "*Where are We? Rock Bottom*", is the perfect post-Scotland elections anthem).

One might expect that with Labour in the ascendant, those who have provided the background music of the last ten years would be rubbing their hands in anticipation of jamming-sessions in the back room of No 10. Alas, not. Jimmy Sommerville, the shaven-headed ex-vocalist of The Communards, was the first to reveal that Mr Blair is not welcome among the Paul Smith-wearing classes. "I really can't stand him. He gives me the creeps, grinning at everything," he sniped, while announcing that he would no longer be crooning for a Labour triumph.

Red Wedge has wound itself up quietly, bruised that the leader has shown not the slightest interest in having it around during the next election campaign. Former workers in Kinnock's office blame the "pop-and-politics" brigade for helping to produce the atmosphere of overheated triumphalism which turned the Sheffield rally into a vote-loser. The misery-drenched film director Ken Loach would have resigned his party membership over the campaign to drop Clause Four, had not some unhelpful soul in Walworth Road reminded him publicly that he had failed to pay his dues since 1992.

Mr Blair, despite having graced a band called The Ugly Rumours at Oxford, is roundly sceptical of entertainers. But politicians' restraint tends to fly out of the window when they are after the ethnic vote, and he unwisely tried to persuade the mainly Afro-Caribbean readers of *The Voice* newspaper last month that he kept his reggae tastes up to date by listening to the latest releases at home. "Surely," was the paper's measured response, "Mr Blair's press advisers are stretching our credibility on this one."

The truth is that Blair feels far happier in the company of dark-suited, middle-class — and often Conservative — career men than with traditional Labour voters. At the *Spectator*/Allied Dunbar lecture, where he gave a prissy account of the terrors which would befall the parents of truants and owners of ghetto-blasters under a Labour government, he looked perfectly at ease among the sponsoring insurance brokers.

Having sniffed at him warily in the first half of the speech, they soon settled down quite happily in his company. This may be useful in the poaching of Tory votes, but it also reveals the weakness of his appeal to Old Labour — a group not to be confused with the hard trade union Left or the vociferous single-issue lobbies. Old Labour are those people who still see the movement as a crusade and who are not entirely at home with Mr Blair's espousal of Tory economics and slightly cranky communitarianism.

That the luvvies have turned their backs on him need not, of itself, worry him. They always risked providing more trouble than they were worth. But pop-stars and actors are skilled at defining and exploiting what it is that moves audiences, and for all their follies, Red Wedge and the associated causes had a strong instinct for the sentimental impulses which move voters.

THE MUTED reaction to Mr Blair's performance at the Scottish party conference, stronghold of Old Labour, suggested that while the faithful agree with his common-sense approach, stress on communities and firm handling of extremes, they also sense a lack of warmth and inspiration about the man and his politics.

Many such loyal Labour voters feel that the party should stand for something more than the acceptable face of Conservatism. They are a the first to detect a deficit of principle behind New Labour's slick façade — but the rest of the electorate will not be far behind.

Gingrich has kept his 100-day promise to America, but many hurdles remain, says **Irwin M. Stelzer**

After the Contract, what next for Newt?

And on the 93rd day he rested. Yesterday Newt completed his 100-day Contract With America ahead of schedule, and released his minions to their families and constituents for their Easter and Passover vacations. And he saw all that he had made, and it was good.

Or was it? Last November, Newt Gingrich and the Republican candidates for the House of Representatives struck a deal with the American electorate: give us control of the House of Representatives and, within 100 days, we will bring to a vote ten major proposals to change the way America is governed.

And they did just that. The House cut its staff, subjected itself to its own laws, and assigned chairmanships to younger members. It passed the balanced budget amendment (the Senate refused to go along) and the line-item veto. It passed a crime Bill emphasising punishment, and a legal reform Act to limit damages and adopt the British "loser pays" system. It approved a welfare reform Bill, approved tax breaks for families, a capital gains tax cut, and a reduction in taxes on social security recipients, subject to progress in balancing the budget. It approved a series of regulatory reforms to require rational consideration of costs and benefits. It cut back on peacekeeping operations, and restricted the placing of US troops under UN command. And it brought to a vote a constitutional amendment to limit the number of terms its members might serve.

This latter did not pass, as a few older Republicans joined almost all of the Democrats to deny Gingrich the needed two-thirds majority. But the Contract has been fulfilled, every whit and jot. All items have been brought to the House floor, and voted up or down. House Speaker Gingrich and his new-age Reaganauts delivered. As the Speaker puts it, "Republicans in the House are doing exactly what we set out to do... We are staging a full frontal assault on the assumptions that have governed Washington for the past 30 years."

In its entirety the Contract constitutes the first phase of a Right-radical revolution which, if it succeeds, will change America every bit as profoundly as did Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal.

Start with America's role in world affairs. As Henry Kissinger points out, since the days of Woodrow Wilson "the justification of America's international role was messianic: America had an obligation... to spread its principles throughout the world". That's not how Gingrich's crowd see things. Their Contract limits US involvement in collective actions that are not clearly in America's self-interest, and prevents American troops from serving under foreign commanders. A more profound shift, one that carries American policy in the direction of even greater unilateralism, awaits the election of a Republican President in 1996.

But it is the domestic scene to which much of the Contract is directed. Gingrich's radicalism (unlike Baroness Thatcher's) is aimed at shifting power from central government to the states, and thus directly to the people. Thus, for example, the Contract replaces specific entitlement programmes, administered from Washington, with "block grants" — lump sums given to the states.

So, too, with tax cuts. These are aimed not only at shrinking government by denying it money, but giving "Americans some of their own money back", as Gingrich puts it. And these tax cuts, like welfare reform, are based on the notion that people respond rationally to economic incentives.

It would, in sum, be churlish to call the Contract With America anything other than a success. It achieved its political and its legislative objectives, and those of conservative policy-makers. But 100 days does not a revolution make. The Senate might still reject part of the Contract, which its members never signed. Indeed, that seems likely. The 54 Senate Republicans include seven or eight so-called long-serving "moderates". Allied to the 46 Democrats, they will block any legislation that threatens to sacrifice the goal of a balanced budget to what they see as the less important goal of tax cuts.

And, if the Contract survives the Senate, those portions uncongenial to Clinton face the prospect of a presidential veto.

Which brings us to the most important question: what next? Gingrich refuses to talk about a second 100 days, preferring to focus on a longer period consisting of the two-plus years remaining to this Congress, plus the following four or eight years during which a Republican Congress and a Republican President will wage a prolonged assault on the welfare state and the dependency mentality that underlies it. People will have more of their own money to spend; the family unit will be revitalised by welfare reform and family-friendly tax policies; the 1960s morality of pot, permissiveness and promiscuity will be replaced by a re-moralised society, to borrow a phrase from Gertrude Himmelfarb, one of Gingrich's favourite authors.

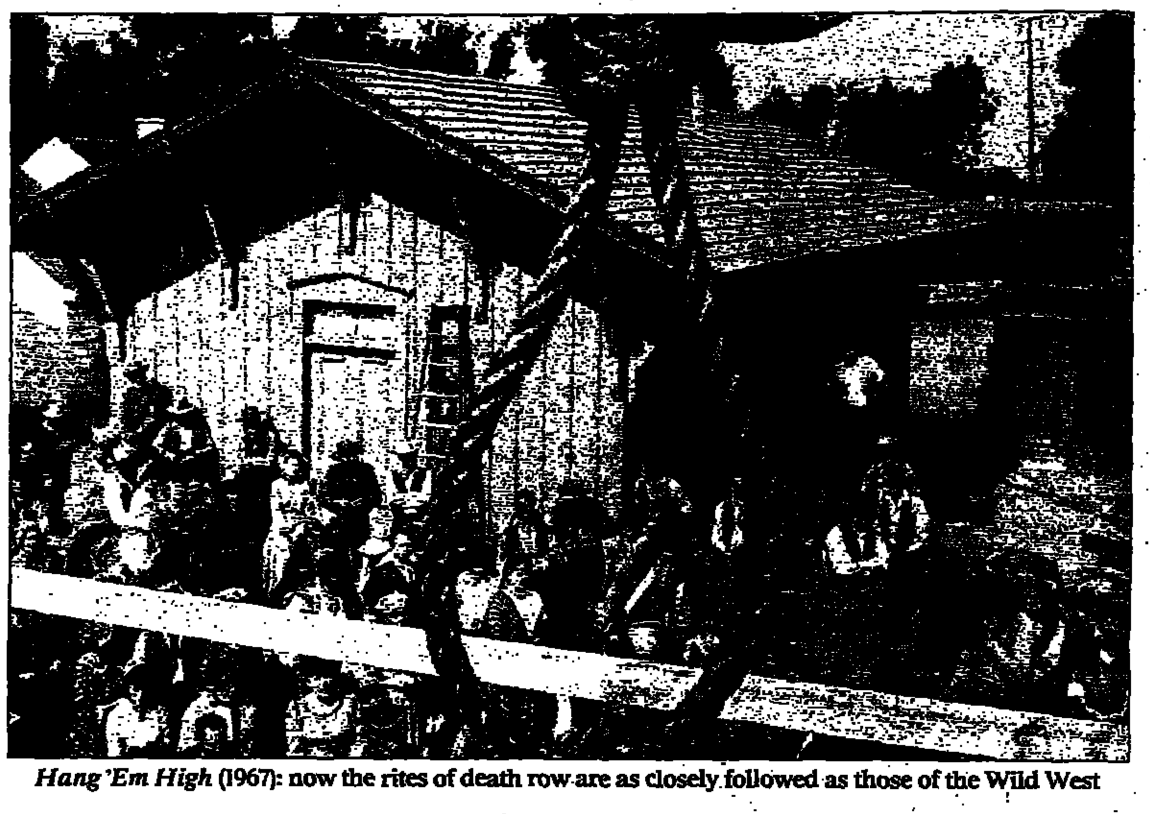
No one can accuse Gingrich of lacking what a mystified George Bush referred to as "the vision thing". But many doubt that he can achieve even part of his ambitious goal. "Now comes the hard part," says American Enterprise Institute's political expert, Norm Ornstein. "To cut taxes and balance the budget, Newt will have to reform Medicare and Medicaid. Remember what happened to the Clintons when they tackled America's healthcare problem."

Even Gingrich fans agree that the Speaker will have to apply his formidable intellectual and political skills if he is to succeed in rolling back the State without at the same time generating a voter backlash. If America's oldies love their social security entitlements as much as America's teenagers love their MTV, and if Gingrich's followers can't agree on which laws and regulations to repeal, the State will not wither. Pruned, it will grow again at a healthy clip when next a Democrat strolls in the White House Rose Garden.

The rituals of public butchery

This barbaric new cult of execution reflects an American desire to return to a raw, politically incorrect society

Simon Jenkins



Hang 'Em High (1967): now the rites of death row are as closely followed as those of the Wild West

Let him burn. Let him roast. We want to see him fry. Kill him. And so says 80 per cent of America. And so says 74 per cent of Britain, according to MORI's last poll on capital punishment. An eye for an eye, a neck for a neck, a bullet for a bullet and Georgia's version of the martyrdom of St Thomas for Nicholas Ingram.

Judicial killing in America has become a bizarre blood sport. Georgia's parole board chairman, Wayne Garner, by all accounts a moderate man, demanded "to look the man in the eye" before confirming his execution. He also telephoned the murder victim's wife, presumably for a Neronic thumbs up or thumbs down. Last week he said he had visited the Tower of London and bought a British coffin for his private funeral parlour. He failed only to take Ingram out to a desert tree with a rope, a horse and a rattlesnake, murmuring to CNN that "A man's gotta do what a man's gotta do".

I hope we can clear away any rubbish that this has anything to do with preventing crime. America's crime statistics are mostly as haywire as Britain's. On the best available evidence (the Justice Department's victimisation survey) crime in America since the reintroduction of the death penalty 19 years ago has been roughly constant. Non-violent crime has fallen, which has little to do with capital punishment, more with security. Violent crime has risen, the homicide rate edged upwards and gun crime soared. The latter appears largely due to the criminalised drugs industry. But then the deterrent theory of punishment has always been the resort of the wilfully stupid. Homicide is supremely a crime of spontaneous passion, accident or diminished responsibility. It is non-consequential. Deterrence is supremely consequential. Murderers do not first rehearse their courtroom drama.

The American way of execution is now part of the American way of politics, if not way of life. The wildest and most violent states, such as Texas and Florida, kill most and execute most. The rituals, the polishing of the chair, the shaving, the last rites, have more in common with the Middle Ages than with modern penology. Seven states still use gas chambers, four use hanging, two use firing squads. An increasing number admit the public to watch. Soon they will be broadcast on prime time. There is no such word as taste on American television. I realised this last week as I watched a woman screaming on television "as it happened" over her just murdered husband's body. Paramedics and police now go out with live cameras attached.

American executions are a reversion to an earlier age. Just 271 have taken place since judicial killing was reintroduced by the Supreme Court in 1976 but 3,000 people are on death rows. These rows, with their special menus, their ghoulish banter, their tantalising last-minute dashes and reprieves are the new Wild West. They are penal policy as Hollywood script. Each inmate is a human drama, in a land desperate for such dramas. As death approaches little mention is made of the crime. The condemned man becomes a sort of hero, a true American enjoying his Hegelian "right" to punishment to atone for his crime. Part of the ritual is the lawyer. Fifty-two convicts have been freed from death rows after the intervention of lawyers, usually on finding that somebody else did the murder after all. While capital punishment has not made much work for hangmen, lawyers have done well out of them. The average stay of execution is now a decade. Since lawyers come more expensive than jailers, a murderer condemned to death can expect to cost the State an average $2 million more than if he had received a life sentence.

Proposals to make executions more dignified appear to ruin the point. As Dr Johnson said in defence of public hanging: "Executions are intended to draw spectators. If they don't, they don't answer to their purpose." In the stampede to watch two villains hang outside Newgate in 1807, 32 spectators died with them. I am sure the good doctor regarded their deaths as equally salutary. Britain ended public executions in 1868, at the same time as public flogging in the army was stopped. Too many soldiers were fainting at the spectacle. When hanging was abolished in 1964, the principal reason was not revulsion but concern that juries would no longer convict murderers, out of sympathy or for fear of mistake.

The new American cult of execution is eerie. It is shared with a diminishing list of states, not known for their liberalism: China, Iran, Iraq and most Muslim states, Japan, Thailand, Nigeria, Russia and a few Caribbean islands. All of South America has abolished it. So has all of Western Europe.

I am inclined to conclude that, in America's case, execution is more a reflection of its pure democracy than of any lack of it. Judicial killing is not a response to a more violent society but is part of that violent society. Indeed it is a harking to an even more violent one, much glamorised by the media. America's Golden Age was an age of conflict, not of peace. It was raw, dangerous, tough. The search for some historical element that was peculiarly American, not imported, returns again and again to the Disneyland images of gunfights and frontier law.

This spirit underlies what to Europeans is a baffling opposition to gun control. It is securing the repeal of crash helmet laws in many states. It shows in a reaction against political correctness and a love of right-wing radio shows, some of devastating obscenity. Get off my back, it says. I'm mad as hell. Let me be. If you don't like Kentucky Fried Murderer, then go see a shrink or a lawyer. You're no American.

To me capital punishment falls square within the terms of both the American Constitution and the European Convention on Human Rights, both of which outlaw "cruel and unusual (or inhumane) punishments". It risks killing the innocent. It implies that punishment must not "fit" the crime but repeat the crime: as if every arsonist must be incinerated, every face-slasher have his face slashed, every mugger be mugged. Deterrence theory is irrelevant, except possibly for middle-class fraudsters. We used to hang for sheep stealing. It did not stop stealing, but it did stop juries convicting for the offence.

More to the point, I expect the State to behave better collectively than its members do individually, otherwise why have it? We do not refuse hospital treatment to those who injure themselves. We do not kick old people out of nursing homes because their lives are not worth costly support. We do not deny help to the insane because they are past caring. The State is institutionalised civilisation. Hanging, chopping, shooting or burning people is the behaviour of maniacs. It does not stop murder; it merely makes us feel better about it afterwards: what is laughingly called the "retributive" theory of punishment. That is barbarism.

I am, however, sobered by the knowledge that three-quarters of the British people disagree with me. They want hanging back. On any referendum it would return. Why should my view prevail over theirs? In America, ruled by the politics of the mob, representatives must do as they are told. In Britain, ruled by the politics of the club, MPs can vote two-to-one against the public will. I prefer the British way, but that does not exonerate the club from explaining itself to those whose views it is disregarding. If all of us cannot persuade them of the virtues of a civilised State, we have failed in a significant democratic duty.

That is why we must keep making the case against capital punishment. We must not let up. Parliament must keep voting. And damnation must be visited on countries, especially otherwise civilised ones, that continue this obscene practice.

Real clanger

THE TIMES DIARY

A RUDE shock is in store for Dame Iris Murdoch. Britain's celebrated novelist. Evelyn Waugh called her a fraud in an inscription in one of his first editions, which comes up for auction later this month.

The remark was intended only for the eyes of his friend Tom Driberg, the Labour MP, to whom he sent the edition of *Unconditional Surrender*. It was in response to correspondence about Murdoch and other writers which Driberg sent to Waugh.

Evelyn Waugh: bellicose

Evelyn Waugh was never one to pull punches, but his remarks refer to *The Bell*, one of her best known works. And while he's at it, he takes good sideswipe at John Mortimer, author of *Rumpole of the Bailey*. "Murdoch is a fraud," he wrote in 1961. "E.g. her bell could not have been rung as she describes it. Mr Mortimer must be a prize ass."

The novelist is on holiday but her editor, Jonathan Burnham, leaps to her defence: "I can imagine them being antipathetic towards each other. But what would he know?" Selina Hastings, Waugh's biographer, says: "I don't think he would have approved of Murdoch. She was too experimental for him."

Auberon Waugh, however, stands up for his father. "I never heard him talk about her. He probably got irritated by the book."

Glass act

LIBERAL Democrats are contemplating revenge after losing a seat in the European elections to the Tories last year. They have always complained that they lost Devon and East Plymouth because the electorate was confused by a Literal Democrat candidate who stole their votes.

For the forthcoming Perth and Kinross by-election, there is talk of a Conservatory and Unionist party candidate who will argue for tax relief on conservatories. Sir David Steel has been informed of the suggestion and says he has passed it on "to the powers that be".

Rail treat

LORD MONTAGU of Beaulieu recently threw a party for his mother on her 100th birthday. The motor-mad peer has another treat in store: Beaulieu is taking her to Paris next month through the Channel Tunnel. She will dine at the Paris Ritz. "It's my present to my mother. We are taking a mid-morning train, having a night-time tour of the city and staying overnight."

Mrs Pleydell-Bouverie is thrilled. "My son announced this out of the blue," she said, fresh from her hairdresser. "It was a complete surprise. I am so fond of Paris but I haven't been there for 30 years."

- *Ghosts of movies past will be swilling champagne and gorging on caviare in the sponsor's enclosure at the Grand National today. The drinks company Martell has invited a John Lennon, a James Dean and a James Mason. "They're all alive and it's pure coincidence," says a spokesman.*

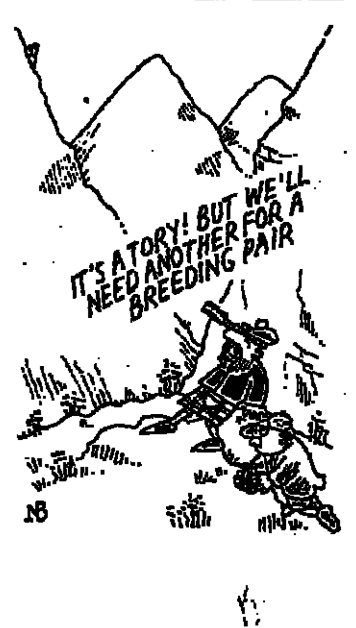
Peter's pal

THE NOVELIST Peter Ackroyd must be regretting the day he decided to sell his Kensington home and move to Tony Blair's Islington. Last week he was held up at knifepoint outside his Georgian terraced house. A friend of the novelist had his wallet stolen.

It gets worse. Ackroyd's dog recently went missing. "It's all getting rather worrying," he says.

Ackroyd insists these incidents have no connection with the fact that one of his neighbours happens to be "Mad" Frankie Fraser, the former south London gangster known as "the dentist" for his penchant for pulling his enemies' teeth.

- *Quality doesn't always count. P & O got through three bottles of Moët et Chandon's finest champagne, Dom Perignon, in rehearsals for the launch of their liner Oriana. None of them smashed properly because of the bottle's long neck, which kept on snapping off. They were eventually forced to resort to non-vintage.*



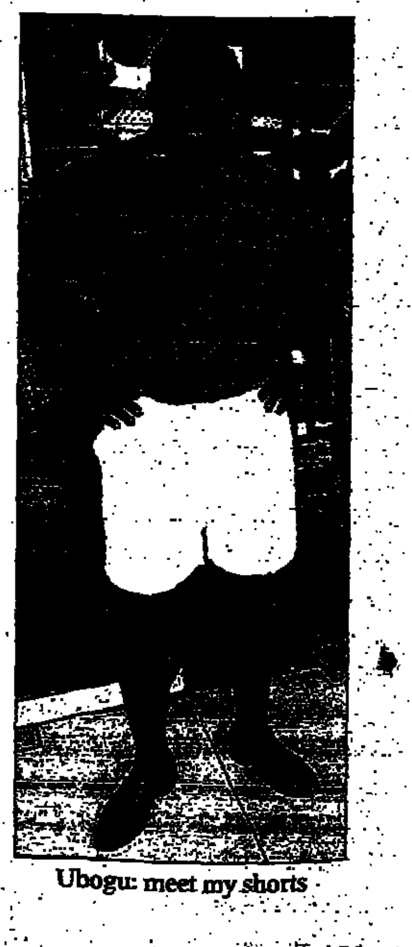
IT'S A TORY! BUT WE'LL NEED ANOTHER FOR A BREEDING PAIR
NB

Bottom line

VICTOR UBOGU, the gargantuan England prop forward, has finally found some shorts to accommodate his ample proportions. In the wake of the recent Calcutta Cup clash, when he had to change his shorts three times because they couldn't take the strain, he appealed through this column for help. A manufacturer has come up with reinforced replacements.

A London store catering for the outsized gentleman, High and Mighty, yesterday presented Ubogu with some extra-tough cotton and polyester shorts with industrial stength stitching. "The problem was that Victor has a relatively small waist at 36 inches but 26-inch thighs and a large backside," says a spokesman. "We had the same problem with Bill Beaumont." Ubogu is delighted: "My bottom is certainly rather larger than the average. But these are very comfortable."

P·H·S



Ubogu: meet my shorts

هكذا من الأصل

BLACK WEEKEND

While the country watches the National, ministers sweat

A breeding pair of ospreys will now become a commoner sight in Scotland than the spotting of a Conservative councillor — let alone a breeding pair of them. With only 79 of its candidates returned in the Scottish local elections, and the loss of all the councils it controlled, the Tory party north of the border merits at least the temporary designation of an endangered species.

It was, as Douglas Hurd admitted, "another black Friday morning". There have been all too many of these in the past two years, most of them managing to break yet another dismal record. This time, Labour won its best-ever vote in Scotland and Tory support was its worst since 1865. The Liberal Democrats even managed to push the Conservatives into fourth place; a measure of true political humiliation.

In Scotland the Tories will be asking themselves whether their key policy difference with the other parties — opposition to devolution — is playing as well as they thought. According to the latest System Three poll, only a fifth of Scots favour the status quo. And of that small pool, the Tories managed to win a bare half on Thursday night. Even among the remaining professed Tories in Scotland, 41 per cent claim to want either a Scottish parliament or complete independence.

For the local polls in England and Wales on May 4, the party's trusted tactic would be to raise the spectre of a dreadful result and then to proclaim triumph when it is narrowly improved upon. In Scotland, that failed to work: the prospect of being reduced to just one council turned out to be rosier than the actual result. Warnings from Smith Square of a 1,000-seat loss are likely to be upgraded to higher figures in the next few weeks.

What if the rest of Britain follows Scotland in its comprehensive rejection of the Conservatives? Ministers now blame divisions in the party, thus instantly increasing the disunity by their very utterances. It could be argued instead that rows over Europe have been somewhat muted over recent weeks. The "disunity" that broke out over the health service this week was simply a symptom of government weakness. The parliamentary Conservative party is not so much disunited as out of control. In the past, backbenchers' disquiet over such a policy would generally have been privately expressed. Now more and more MPs feel they have a licence to humiliate their own ministers on the floor of the House.

The question of the leadership is once again on many lips and will be shouted fortissimo if there is a rout on May 4. Members from at least half the parliamentary party, extrapolating from the local vote to their own constituencies, will fear for the safety of their seats. Suddenly they will feel for themselves the terrors of middle-class job insecurity.

If the contenders for the leadership of the party are manoeuvring, it is still only discreetly. Michael Heseltine, because of his age, is the only one who would benefit from a change of leadership this side of a general election. The others would prefer John Major to take the blame for a defeat.

The Prime Minister's reaction is to try to distance himself from his colleagues, to adopt an almost presidential loftiness in office. This is a technique which may help to induce respect when times are good. But it can be risky, as Margaret Thatcher discovered. A presidential Prime Minister tends to alienate his Cabinet. And the only MPs who could guarantee Mr Major's instant departure from his job if he lost their confidence are the colleagues who sit around his table.

A CLIMATE FOR BARGAINS

Developing countries have responsibilities too

It was snowing in Berlin when delegates arrived last week to talk about global warming, and the climate within the conference centre was no less glacial by the time they wound up proceedings yesterday. Angela Merkel, Germany's Environment Minister, got the applause that accompanies every United Nations "consensus" as she banged down the chairman's gavel. But there was little sign of the environmental fervour that politicians produced — or simulated — for the 1992 "Earth summit" in Rio de Janeiro. After nearly a fortnight, the parties to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change have agreed on almost nothing except the ground rules for negotiations yet to come.

What this means is that the silly season of environmental diplomacy may with luck be fading. The besetting sin of UN conferences is that they set inflated goals which governments have no intention of meeting. Rio's unrealistic "Agenda 21" for greening the planet set new records for this genre and has produced nothing but unproductive squabbling in New York ever since. Sound environmental stewardship is too important to be held hostage to the politics of gesture and the pseudo-decisions which go with it.

By contrast, the climate convention signed at Rio is worth building on. Although the scientific evidence on the impact of global warming is still inconclusive, the convention reflects broad agreement that reducing output of man-made "greenhouse" gases is sensible as a precautionary measure. At Rio, the industrialised countries agreed to reduce their output of greenhouse gases by 2000 to the levels prevailing in 1990. In Berlin, they have now agreed to further cuts after 2000 — or more accurately, to agree by 1997 on new targets and dates for doing so.

This would look more impressive were it not that only Britain and Germany are remotely close to meeting the existing 2000 target, and that the Americans have been dragged to this compromise protesting bitterly that the UN is giving rapidly industrialising — and seriously polluting — giants such as China and India a free ride. Poor countries, in Berlin as at Rio, have made no promises at all.

Their argument is that gas-guzzling America has no right to demand from them energy conservation measures that would unfairly handicap their development efforts. But this ignores the economic benefits of energy saving — particularly since new technology could help poor countries to leapfrog the heavily polluting "smokestack industry" phase the rich went through. Since greenhouse gas emissions from poor countries will exceed those of the industrialised world within 15 years, in addition, the battle to guard against global warming will be lost if rich countries alone take precautionary conservation measures.

The more countries have already done to cut emissions, moreover, the higher the incremental costs are of going further. It would be far cheaper to start cutting emissions in the developing countries than it now is in the West. The best idea floated in Berlin was for a co-operative kind of trade in emission levels, under which an industrial country could finance cuts in greenhouse gas output in a developing country and in return, be allowed to credit the cuts against its own emission quotas. This will now go ahead, but only on an experimental basis; and in the lopsided spirit of Rio, the developing countries agreed only on condition that during the pilot phase, the credit system will not operate. Without such an incentive, it is hard to see why the West should bother. At this rate, the Maldive Islands will sink beneath the rising waves before poor nations learn that conservation is not just a novel excuse for blackmail. Green diplomacy still has a long way to go.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

The millennium has its own curiosity shop

The dispatch of a team of scientists to the mountains of central China yesterday in search of the yeti revived one of the world's favourite mysteries. The belief in Bigfoot, the Abominable Snowman, Enkidu or the Sasquatch is as old as the hills in which his massive footprints have been sighted through the centuries. Whether the elusive simian will provide the Chinese Committee for Research on Rare and Strange Creatures with "undeniable proof" of these "living fossils" remains to be seen. But, if these explorers fail, others will follow them with no less inquisitiveness or enthusiasm.

Mysteries of this kind seem to be coming back into fashion. That unloved cultural icon of the 1970s, the UFO, is enjoying its own revival, after reports that a film to be screened publicly in August will offer proof that little men have come from other planets to visit us. Perhaps ill-advisedly, flying saucer fanatics are describing the film as "the Holy Shroud of the UFO movement". The British UFO Research Assocation is logging more than 200 curious sightings a year, with a higher than average concentration of alleged encounters with the extra-terrestrial Other in Somerset, central Scotland and West Yorkshire. Once again, strange lights in the skies seem to be *à la mode*.

Likewise, curious new species are cropping up around the world with uncanny frequency. Last year, four new types of mammal were found in a remote area of Vietnam, a wildly disportionate rate of discovery compared with the rest of the century. A dinosaur-like sea monster washed up in Russia. A pine better associated with the natural world of 130 million years ago was found once again in Australia. The deepest recesses of ancient biology are being trawled as if a grand inventory were imminent.

As often as speculation comes up with a mystical new theory, science knocks it down. The Turin Shroud has been shown to be a medieval fake. The most famous photograph of the Loch Ness Monster has been revealed to be a hoax. The best-known evidence of the existence of Bigfoot — a film shot in California — looks suspiciously like a tall man in an ape suit. We live in an age suspicious of proof that its legends may be true.

Yet the Enlightenment spirit of rationalism and scepticism has not dimmed our desire to pursue the weird, the portentous and the inexplicable. The proximity of the millennium, indeed, may be heightening our taste for such phenomena: the omens and oddities that animated our ancestors before the year 1000 and have inspired their successors to a lesser extent at each *fin-de-siècle*. The scientists now searching the snowy wastes for evidence of the yeti may return empty-handed. Yet for awe-struck humanity in search of the unbelievable, it remains true that the quest is what matters.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Scotland's ban on English viewers

From Mr Christopher Moore

Sir, An important consequence of the Scottish courts' decision to ban the *Panorama* programme (reports, April 4, 5; letters, April 5) needs to be carefully considered.

As a consequence of the physics of terrestrial broadcasting transmitters in the north of England and Northern Ireland were unable to broadcast the programme, since they would also have transmitted it to parts of Scotland. As a result nobody in Newcastle, for example, saw the programme.

It must follow then that, for broadcasting purposes, there is a de facto "West Lothian" problem. The Scottish courts have decided what can and cannot be seen in other parts of Britain, whilst it seems that the English courts have no say over what is seen in Scotland. If the situation were reversed and parts of Scotland were deprived of seeing what other parts of Scotland could see because of a decision of the English courts, I suspect that a lot more would be heard about this matter from the Scots.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER MOORE,
c/o 29a Thurloe Place,
South Kensington, SW7.
April 6.

From the Right Reverend Maurice A. P. Wood

Sir, No wonder the Opposition parties wanted to stop the Prime Minister from being heard in Scotland. I have seldom heard John Major speaking so lucidly, so sensibly, and with such calm authority. Long may the United Kingdom have such a steady Prime Minister.

Yours contently,
†MAURICE WOOD,
41 Fir Tree Walk, Enfield, Middlesex.
April 4.

From Mr Geoffrey de Wilton

Sir, Why could not the Scots exercise their rights by just turning the TV knob to the left?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY de WILTON,
South Wootton House,
Butleigh Wootton, Somerset.
April 4.

A faulty premise

From Dr Patrick Cosgrave

Sir, Dr Henry Kissinger ("America's new special relationship", March 30) says that, at the end of the Second World War, "Britain was the only country that had not been occupied at one stage or another". If he means European countries and, in so far as one can dig meaning out of his prose, it may be so, then he has forgotten Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland.

But he may, of course, mean countries participating in the Allied war effort. In which case — to name but some — there were Australia, Canada, New Zealand and his own United States, all of which fulfil his requirements and that preservation of institutions which he puts forward as the basis of his analysis.

Anybody can make a mistake or error of fact or judgment. But Dr Kissinger makes use of his in order to construct a highly fallacious analysis of Britain's postwar diplomatic position.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK COSGRAVE,
44 Elms Crescent, SW4.
April 4.

Visitors' passports

From Mr William Gibbons

Sir, As the rest of Europe moves closer to being a "frontier-free travel-zone" (report and leading article, March 27; letters, April 4), the UK Government, as from January 1, 1996, is proposing that British citizens can only travel to and from other European Union (EU) countries with a full British passport. The British visitor's passport (BVP), which has been of great service for very many years, is to be scrapped (report, December 22, 1994). The great benefit of the BVP is that it can be obtained at very short notice over a post office counter: 1.9 million BVPs were issued in the year 1993-1994.

The insistence on a full British passport makes little sense in a Europe where barriers should be coming down. For people who have never travelled abroad before, or who only travel infrequently, the opportunity to travel at short notice may be removed since it will take at least ten days to obtain a full passport.

Our Government is proposing to make travel for UK citizens within the Union more difficult at a time when all other EU citizens can travel to and from the UK on their identity cards. Our request is that the withdrawal of the BVP be delayed until such time that voluntary identity cards which can be used for travel within the EU are introduced.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM GIBBONS
(Director),
Passenger Shipping Association,
9-10 Market Place, W1.
April 5.

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Studying the Classics in translation

From Dr S. J. Pulleyn

Sir, The assumption made in your leading article of April 3, "New lamps for old", that the teaching of Classics in translation has made the subject more accessible is no doubt true. However, I regret the implication that such studies mark a healthy departure from the shackles of traditional (and supposedly elitist) studies based on grammar, composition and close attention to the text.

Not all young scholars are anxious merely "to chalk up credits for their careers". Some of us are concerned about the transmission to succeeding generations of as accurate a knowledge of Latin and Greek as possible. Perhaps intellectual circumspection is not the only thing that makes some people "less certain of what the texts say: and so they deconstruct them".

The beauties of Homer and Virgil, referred to in your article, reside not solely in their content. There is also the matter of poetic style and form. This simply cannot be captured in translation.

The same is also true of ancient history. It is not just a question of finding out what happened. The texts involve comment and evaluation in languages whose semantic categories are not always congruent to our own.

Such subtleties will not always be plain from translations. Translations may be of use for giving undergraduates a taste of Classics, but in order to go any further it will still be necessary to learn the languages.

Yours faithfully,
S. J. PULLEYN,
Merton College, Oxford.
April 4.

From Dr Peter Jones

Sir, Your splendid leading article today confidently celebrates the joint meeting of the Classical Associations of Scotland and England in St Andrews. It is right to. Classics flourishes in our universities as never before.

But in our schools, especially our state schools, the situation is becoming increasingly difficult. A recent survey by the Joint Association of Classical Teachers shows that in large areas of the country, Classics in state schools is either severely threatened or non-existent. Time and again, the reason given is "pressure on the timetable" or "lack of resources".

It would be easy to declare that no subject has a right to exist in schools. But the national curriculum entrenches by law a number of subjects taking up at least 80 per cent of the school timetable, and at a time of financial cutbacks, when even the national curriculum cannot be delivered in some schools, it is the minority subjects which have to go.

This inescapable whittling away of any variety and choice within the state-imposed curriculum is extremely serious. I am not aware that any government educational body is the slightest bit concerned.

Yours etc,
PETER JONES
(Spokesman, The Co-ordinating Committee for the Classics),
The University,
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU.
April 3.

From Professor A. J. Woodman

Sir, While it is welcome to see some public attention given to Classics, your leading article perpetrated some misconceptions.

You posit a "change from Classics based on Latin and Greek for the ruling and privately educated elite to Classics in translation". It would perhaps have been more accurate to say that so-called comprehensive education has denied the opportunity of studying Latin and Greek to almost all those children who previously would have attended their local grammar schools. The effect has been to restrict such study to private schools, a deplorable change in the opposite direction from that which you describe.

You also say that "the discipline of the old Classics . . . taught its students to . . . keep their attention firmly on the text and its exegesis", whereas Classics in translation "makes no such demands and encourages its students to ask wider questions".

This might suggest that those with a knowledge of Latin and Greek cannot and do not ask wider questions, which is demonstrably false; but it also presupposes the essential validity of questions from those who can never have confidence in the basis of their questions, since their access to texts is limited to a medium which is itself prejudiced, restrictive and quite possibly wrong.

Yours sincerely,
A. J. WOODMAN,
University of Durham,
Department of Classics,
38 North Bailey, Durham.
April 4.

Awake during surgery

From Professor J. Gareth Jones

Sir, Your headline "Half of patients may be awake during surgery" and the quoted estimate by the Association of Anaesthetists of 1 per cent of patients remembering events during operations (early editions, April 5) makes frightening reading for someone about to have a general anaesthetic.

Patients may be comforted to learn that the Association of Anaesthetists' figures are probably out of date. Recall of events during operations is becoming much less frequent and evidence from contemporary anaesthetic practice suggests that three in 1,000 patients may have a vague recall of some event during the anaesthetic (*British Journal of Anaesthesia*, 1994: vol 73, pp 31-37).

In contrast, about one in 10,000 have vivid recollections and have obviously been awake at some stage of the anaesthetic. The claim that half of all patients may be awake during surgery but do not remember anything afterwards, with millions of people suffering psychological after-effects, is unnecessarily alarmist.

It is well known that varying combinations of general anaesthetic drugs can produce a state of complete indifference to pain and loss of memory of events taking place within a few seconds of testing. Many anaesthetists would regard this state as ideal for most surgery and certainly not a ticket for the psychiatrist's couch.

Yours faithfully,
J. GARETH JONES,
University of Cambridge
Clinical School,
Department of Anaesthesia,
Addenbrooke's Hospital,
Hills Road, Cambridge.

A modern army

From Brigadier Charles Millman (retd)

Sir, The old county regiments may indeed have disappeared with the passage of time (Sir John Nott's letter, April 1; Sir Rhodes Boyson, April 4). I joined The Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey), saw it amalgamate with the East Surreys to become the Queen's Surreys and later still find itself as the 1st battalion of a new Home Counties-grouped Large Regiment — The Queens.

As an "oldie" I now parade with the regimental association of The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment, the resultant merger in 1992 of The Queens and Royal Hampshires, and am proud to do so. For in the 2½ years since Vesting Day I have seen, heard or read nothing to suggest that those now serving have not retained their pride in a heritage that goes back to 1661 and their continued recognition as the most senior English Regiment of the Line.

Furthermore, reports confirm their decided enthusiasm and commitment in matching the varied demands of operational duty in Ulster, Bosnia, Cyprus and Rwanda and as individual UN observer or training team members worldwide.

In short, the modern infantryman has recognised and has readily adapted to his new mixed role as peacekeeper, observer and trainer wherever that may be. I don't think this new mandate, one full of challenge, will make too many recruiting sergeants redundant in the immediate future — contrary to the Nott viewpoint.

Yours sincerely,
CHARLES MILLMAN,
Nile Cottage,
62 North Road, Hythe, Kent.
April 4.

From Professor Gerald Bonner

Sir, Sir Rhodes Boyson suggests "that all 14-18-year-old youths should have to join a local uniformed organisation and attend one evening a week, one weekend a month and one week a year in camp and compete in all activities against other local groups in sports and exercises".

Some arrangement very like this existed in Germany 60 years ago. It did little to improve the moral condition of the country.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD BONNER,
7 Victoria Terrace, Durham.
April 4.

Bid for freedom

From Mrs E. M. Gilder

Sir, We too have been intrigued by the use of certain words (Mrs Sweeting's letter about her electric blanket, April 4). We were interested to learn, while discussing french doors with our builder, that these consist of a "lead door" and a "slave door". This has led to a debate in the family about which door each of us should use once the building work has been completed.

Yours faithfully,
E. M. GILDER,
17 Maple Drive, Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

NHS consultants

From Mrs R. C. Comber

Sir, There is a very simple solution to the controvery over the work patterns of NHS consultants (letter, March 28). Are they willing to keep detailed time-sheets, which would be available for independent audit?

Yours faithfully,
RITA C. COMBER,
The Hills, 34 The Landway,
Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent.
April 2.

Weekend Money letters, page 33

Conflict of interest over lottery grant

From Mr Denis Vaughan

Sir, Richard Morrison (Arts, April 1) describes the conflict of interests if the Arts Council of England gives £46 million of lottery money to a project designed by its deputy chairman, Sir Richard Rogers. A similar conflict prevents the Royal Opera House scheme from gaining approval. Their application for £58.5 million, plus £20 million to cover "transitional costs" while they are homeless, is not eligible for lottery money, because the Arts Council is the joint-owner of the site.

These conflicts of interests would not arise if all the lottery money were distributed by an independent charitable foundation, as proposed in 1973 by the Rothschild royal commission on gambling.

One technical reason against the acceptance of Richard Rogers's scheme for the South Bank is that not one of the large auditoria permits either actors or musicians to give of their best. The sloping structure of these auditoria forbids performers hearing themselves with sufficient direct reflections at ear level to be able to "float" their voices or instruments.

It is folly to invest in the luxury of a glass cage, when the performances will not improve as a result. The money can be spent with more far-reaching results elsewhere. Now that the whole country is playing the lottery, everyone deserves to enjoy the results.

Yours etc,
DENIS VAUGHAN,
41 Floral Street, WC2.
April 5.

From Professor H. C. Higgins

Sir, Richard Morrison is right to criticise the Arts Council's decision to award its deputy chairman architect £980,000 of publicly raised lottery money to produce a "feasibility study". We must "ask an architect to explain", he says, why a feasibility study should cost so much.

The short answer is, it shouldn't, unless the study is to involve detailed design. Few architects receive such an amount to design and supervise the construction of very large buildings.

In-house decisions that distribute public money, like pay awards among chief executives, invariably raise public hackles.

In this instance both the RIBA and the Arts Council should exercise their public duty to explain the correctness of this award.

Yours faithfully,
HAL HIGGINS,
Higgins Gardner & Partners
(Chartered architects),
15 Bury Walk, Chelsea, SW3.
April 6.

West Highland line

From Dr and Mrs Bruce Lees

Sir, Mr C. F. P. Jewell (letter, April 3) appears not to understand the size of the British Isles and how long it takes to travel to Fort William from London. He also appears to ignore the effects on the hours of daylight of travelling north when, between April and September, daylight starts early and ends late, giving a traveller time to enjoy morning light on Loch Lomond or sunset over Rannoch Moor, scenes not easily forgotten.

His comment does nothing to support the well founded reasons for maintaining a sleeper service as part of a comprehensive rail service to the West Coast of Scotland.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LEES,
SHEILA LEES,
Hayfield, Bournefields,
Twyford, Winchester, Hampshire.

President's muse

From Mr Graham Cooke

Sir, Your leader about Martin Gilbert advising the Prime Minister ("Major's muse", April 4) suggested that the American historian Arthur Schlesinger as an adviser to President Kennedy "was the force behind the young President's hypnotic oratory and — some alleged — the true author of his prose".

As I recall, most of these speeches were drafted by Theodore Sorensen, as was *Profiles of Courage*, the book for which Kennedy was awarded a Pulitzer prize.

Yours faithfully
GRAHAM COOKE,
1 Burville Court,
Langham Road, SW20.
April 4.

Back to the future

From Mr Victor Vegoda

Sir, I was fascinated to read (Mind and Matter, April 3) about particles or waves that travel much faster than light. This must mean that they arrive before they have left and in time might lead to the invention of a time machine. If so watch out National Lottery, not to mention the Grand National.

You, Sir, might eventually print tomorrow's or next year's news or stock market prices, and the hustings will be a thing of the past. What will happen to the futures market? The mind boggles.

Yours faithfully,
VICTOR H. VEGODA,
5 Beech Avenue, Whetstone, N20.
April 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE
April 7: The Rt Hon Sir Zelman Cowen had the honour of being invited to Luncheon with The Queen.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
April 7: The Princess Royal, Patron, International Rescue Corps, this afternoon attended an informal open day at the Corps Headquarters, Glory Mill Papers Limited, High Wycombe, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire (Commander the Lord Cottesloe).

CLARENCE HOUSE
April 7: Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother was represented by Major Sir Ralph Anstruther, Bt, at the Memorial Service for the Lady Jessamine Harmsworth which was held in the Chapel at Haddo House, Aberdeen, this afternoon.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
April 7: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Rainbows Children's Hospice, Lark Rise, Loughborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, this afternoon attended a Reception at the Diamond Centre, Irthlingborough, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Northamptonshire (Mr John Lowther).

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, later visited the Northamptonshire Charter for Youth Initiative recycling project at the Interlink Haven, Northampton.

His Royal Highness afterwards met members of the Northamptonshire Interdependency Group at the Diversion Unit, Northampton.

Mr Matthew Butler was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 7: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at a Silent Auction in aid of the Angus Branch of the British Red Cross, and planted the Branch's "Humanity" Rose, at Cortachy Castle, Kirriemuir.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Angus (The Earl of Airlie, KT).

The Hon Mrs Wills was in attendance.

Luncheon

200 Club
Mr Paul Bell, Captain of the London Irish Rugby Football Club, presided at a luncheon of the 200 Club at the Merchant Centre, Shoe Lane, yesterday and presented the Leprechaun trophy and a case of whiskey to Mr Terry Cooper of the Rugby Union Writers' Club. Mr David Frost, President of the Rugby Union Writers' Club, also spoke.

School news

St Swithun's School, Winchester
Awards have been offered from September 1995 to the following:
Sixth Form: Sadie Dunn, Amanda Efford (Fernhill Manor), Anne-Marie Haskell, Jasmine Hawkins, Alexandra Helfrecht (Cayman Island), Rosemary Hemsley, Elizabeth Kershaw, Eleanor Kinchen, Rosemary Kingsbury-Smith, Sophie Large, Jennifer Lau, Fay Lovegrove (music), Sophie Maughan, Juliet Ponsonby, Sophie Rickards, Alyson Tapp (The Grove).
13+: Catherine Gordon, Eleanor Hill.
12+: Kate Chalk, Emma Fleming (Rookesbury Park), Charlotte Ruston, Clare Sanderson.
11+: Dana Acharya (The Study), Sophie Cliffe-Roberts (Sherborne House), Alexandra du Boulay (St Swithun's Junior), Bryony Jones (St Swithun's Junior), Rachel Kingston (Prince's Mead), Stephanie Lee (Prince's Mead), Jennifer Myatt (St Monica's), Rosemary Ormerod (St Swithun's Junior).
Music Exhibitions: Karen Chung, Annabel Davies (Forres Sandle Manor), Joanna Goatley, Anna Hadfield, Sophia Hanvey, Polly Sutton.

St Swithun's School is a registered charity for the education of girls aged 11 to 18 years.

Tormead School, Guildford
To mark the 90th anniversary of Tormead School, Guildford, a Toga Lunch will be held on April 29 at the school. The Summer Ball will be on July 8. Memorabilia are needed for the birthday anthology. Please contact the school office. Telephone 01483 575101.

Marriage

Mr R.M. Evans
and Ms D. Silver
The marriage took place on Friday, April 7, 1995, in Las Vegas, Nevada, of Mr Roderick Michael Evans, elder son of Mr and Mrs Michael Evans, of Monte Carlo, Monaco, to Ms Dawn Silver, elder daughter of Mr Geoffrey Richmond, of Alwoodley, Leeds.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTHS: John Loudon, horticulturist, Cambuslang, Strathclyde, 1783; Albert I, King of the Belgians 1909-34, Brussels, 1875; Sir Adrian Boult, conductor, Chester, 1889; Mary Pickford, silent film star, Toronto, 1893; Sonja Henie, world skating champion and film actress, Oslo, 1912.

DEATHS: El Greco, painter, Toledo, 1614; Karl von Humboldt, philosopher and educator, Tegel, Germany, 1835; Vaslav Nijinsky, ballet dancer, London, 1950; Pablo Picasso, Mougins, France, 1973.

Isambard Kingdom Brunel's steamship *Great Western* sailed from Bristol on her maiden voyage across the Atlantic to New York, 1838.

King Zog of Albania abdicated, 1939.

The League of Nations held its final meeting, 1946.

In Kenya, Jomo Kenyatta was convicted for his involvement with the Mau-Mau, 1953.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: James Scott, Duke of Monmouth, illegitimate son of King Charles II, Rotterdam, 1649; Charles Baudelaire, poet, Paris, 1821; John Watson, Australia's first Labor Prime Minister, Valparaiso, Chile, 1867; Léon Blum, Premier of France 1936-37 and 1938, Paris, 1872; Paul Robeson, singer and actor, Princeton, New Jersey, 1898; Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labour Party 1955-63, London, 1906; Sir Robert Helpmann, ballet dancer and choreographer, Mount Gambia, South Australia, 1909.

DEATHS: King Edward IV, reigned 1461-70 and 1471-83, London, 1483; François Rabelais, writer and physician, Paris, 1553; Francis Bacon, Lord Chancellor 1618-21, London, 1626; Edward Thomas, poet, killed in action, Arras, 1917; Mrs Patrick Campbell, actress, Pau, France, 1940; Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, executed by Nazis, Flösenberg, 1945; Frank Lloyd Wright, architect, Phoenix, Arizona, 1959.

General Robert E. Lee capitulated to General Grant at Appomattax Court House, Virginia, 1865.

The Hudson Bay Company ceded its territory to Canada, 1896.

Germany invaded Denmark and Norway, 1940.

Weekend birthdays

Dorothy Tutin, 64, left, and Vivienne Westwood, 54

TODAY
Mr Tony Banks, MP, 52; Mr Hywel Bennett, actor, 51; Mr Mark Blundell, racing driver, 29; Sir Andrew Bowden, MP, 65; General Sir Anthony Farrar-Hockley, 71; Mr J.P. Kavanagh, racehorse trainer, 64; Sir Neil Lawson, former High Court judge, 87; Air Commandant Dame Alice Lowrey, former matron-in-chief, PMRAFNS, 90; Mrs Mary Moore, former Principal, St Hilda's College, Oxford, 65; Mr W. Garth Morrison, Chief Scout, 52; Mr Eric Porter, actor, 67; Mr Ian Smith, former Prime Minister of Rhodesia, 76; Mr Alec Stewart, cricketer, 32; Sir Thomas Thomson, former chairman, Greater Glasgow Health Board, 72; Miss Dorothy Tutin, actress, 64; Miss Vivienne Westwood, fashion designer, 54.

TOMORROW
Mr Severiano Ballesteros, golfer, 38; Lord Justice Simon Brown, 58; Mr Eric Clarke, MP, 62; Sir Brian Cubbon, civil servant, 67; Sir Hew Hamilton-Dalrymple, Lord-Leiutenant of East Lothian, 69; Lord Deramore, 84; Mr Iain Duncan Smith, MP, 41; the Most Rev Domenico Enrici, former Apostolic Nuncio, 86; Mr Robson Fisher, former Headmaster, Bryanston School 74; Lord Fitt, 69; Viscount Gage, 61; Miss Hannah Gordon, actress, 54; Mr Roger Harrison, chairman, Toynbee Hall, 62; Sir Graham Hills, former Principal and Vice-Chancellor, Strathclyde University, 69; Mr Eric Illsley, MP, 40; Mr Tom Jackson, trade unionist, 70; the Hon Bernard Jenkin, MP, 36; Mr Neil Jenkins, tenor, 50; Mr Alan Knott, cricketer, 49; Mr Tom Lehrer, lecturer and songwriter, 67; Mr Martin Margiela, fashion designer, 41; Mr Peter Moores, former chairman, Littlewoods Organisation, 63; Mr Vincent O'Brien, racehorse trainer, 78; Sir Michael Ogden, QC, 69; Sir Michael Palliser, former Head of the Diplomatic Service, 73; Mr Carl Perkins, rock singer and guitarist, 63; Mr Eli Prins, art historian, 91; Sir Michael Richardson, former chairman, Smith Newcourt, 70; Mr Martin Rogers, former Chief Master, King Edward's School, Birmingham, 64; Miss Valerie Singleton, broadcaster, 58; Mr Michael Somare, CH, first Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, 59; Professor D.M. Walker, QC, 47; 75; Mr B.H. Weston, former chairman, Manweb, 65; Mr Frank Yardley, racehorse trainer, 52; Miss Frieda Young, diplomat, 82; Sir Richard Young, industrialist, 81.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Barry Eves, Priest-in-charge, Bubwith and Skipwith (York): to be Vicar, Bubwith and Skipwith.

The Rev Anthony Frampton-Morgan, Curate, Plymstock: to be Priest-in-charge, Wolborough (Exeter).

The Rev John Fulton, Rector, Hepworth w. Hinderclay, Wattisfield and Thelnetham: to be Priest-in-charge, Walsham-le-Willows, Finningham w. Westhorpe (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

The Rev Stephen Girling, curate, Ogley Hay (Lichfield): to be Vicar, South Molton Team (Exeter).

The Rev David Grice, Priest-in-charge, Thorner: to be Vicar, Thorner (Ripon).

The Rev Paul Hancock, Rector, Charleton w. Buckland-tout-Saints, East Portlemouth, Southpool and Chivelstone: to be Priest-in-charge, the Ascension, Crownhill, Plymouth (Exeter).

The Rev Michael Hepper, Curate, Christ Church, High Harrogate: to be Domestic Chaplain to the Bishop of Ripon (Ripon).

Canon Raymond Hockley, Precentor and Chamberlain of York Minster: to be a Canon Emeritus of York Minster on his retirement and to have permission to officiate.

The Rev Colin Hopkinson, Priest-in-charge, East Springfield: to be also Rural Dean of Chelmsford North (Chelmsford).

The Rev Tony Hudson, Priest-in-charge, Hampsthwaite and Killinghall: now also Assistant Rural Dean of Harrogate (Ripon).

The Rev Mark Hunt, formerly Chaplain, HM Prison, Pentonville (London): to be Chaplain, HM Prison, Highpoint, Stradishall (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich).

Service dinners

The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers
Lieutenant-General Sir Jeremy Reilly, Colonel of The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, presided at the annual dinner of the Regimental Dinner Club of the Royal Warwickshire Regiment (Sixth Foot) held last night at the Shire Hall Warwick.

Inns of Court and City Yeomanry
The Earl of Limerick, Honorary Colonel, Colonel G.D. Thompson and past and present officers of the Inns of Court and City Yeomanry dined last night at Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn to mark the retirement of Major J. D'A.C. Cartwright and Major A.J. Benbow. Major J. Fern, Officer Commanding, presided.

RAF Strike Command
Air Vice-Marshal D. Cousins, Senior Air Staff Officer, Headquarters Strike Command and Air Officer Commanding No 38 Group, and members of HQ Strike Command and HQ 38 Group attended a ladies guest night dinner held last night at RAF High Wycombe. Group Captain A.C. Montgomery presided.

4th Parachute Brigade Group
General Sir John Hackett presided at the annual reunion dinner of Officers' of the 4th Parachute Brigade Group (1943-1944) held last night at the Army and Navy Club.

Dinner

Launderers' Company
The Lord Mayor, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress and the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended the annual ladies dinner of the Launderers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Brian St John Mowbray, Master, presided and presented a cheque to the Lord Mayor for the Lord Mayor's Appeal for the British Heart Foundation. Mr Michael Cassidy, Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Corporation of London, also spoke.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Benedictus
and Miss T.E. Chunilal
The engagement is announced between Philip, eldest son of the late Mr Roger Benedictus and of Mrs Tania Benedictus, of Scraptoft, Leicester, and Tamsin, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Rati Chunilal, of Lancing, West Sussex.

Mr R.A. Broxham
and Miss D. Menzies
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr Patrick Broxham, of London, and of Mrs Annabel Broxham, of Gloucestershire, and Deborah, daughter of Mr and Mrs I. Menzies, of Melbourne, Australia.

Mr A.S. Couldrake
and Miss S.C. Tung
The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mrs J.D.M. Couldrake, of Stevenage, Hertfordshire, and Susan, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F. Tung, of Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

Dr J.S. Friedland
and Dr J.C. Porter
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, only son of Mrs Rosalind Friedland and the late Mr Albert Friedland, of Hampstead Garden Suburb, London, and Joanna, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Hugh Porter, of Spetisbury, Dorset.

Mr M.H. Lingeman
and Miss F.S. Tregoning
The engagement is announced between Martin, son of the late Mr and Mrs Eric Lingeman, of Hurstbourne Park, Whitchurch, Hampshire, and Fiona, daughter of the late Mr and Mrs John Tregoning, of Hughbourne House, Ashmansworth.

Mr A.J. Stone
and Miss S.M. Moran
The engagement is announced between Anthony John, elder son of Mrs Maureen Stone and the late Mr Ronald Stone, of Wimbledon, London, and Sarah Mary, younger daughter of Mrs Margaret Moran and the late Joseph Moran, QC, CB, of Wimbledon, London.

Mr N.D.C. Davis
and Miss N.R. Goonesena
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs Christopher Davis, of Pinner, Middlesex, and Nedra, daughter of Mr Karl Goonesena and Mrs Reneira Goonesena, MBE, of Kenton, Middlesex.

Mr P.B. Gray
and Miss S.M. Roff
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr Bruce Gray and the late Mrs Mavis Gray, of Upton Lovel, Wiltshire, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Roff, of Manly, NSW, Australia.

Mr T.R. Dickenson
and Miss R.L. Chinfen
The engagement is announced between Tim, son of Mr Peter Dickenson, of Maidstone, Kent, and Rachel, daughter of Mr and Mrs Lloyd Chinfen, of Waltham Abbey, Essex.

Mr T.L. Hodgson
and Miss C.L. Curtis
The engagement is announced between Toby, son of Mr and Mrs Peter Hodgson, of Little Gaddesden, Hertfordshire, and Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Curtis, of West Wickham, Kent.

Mr N.D.G. Jacob
and Miss N.A. Burn
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, son of the late Mr Richard (Ronald) Jacob and of Mrs Joy Crystal, of Ealing, London, and Nathalie, daughter of Dr and Mrs Karol Burn, of Kensington, London.

Mr N.A. Whitehead
and Miss F. Mackie
The engagement is announced between Neil Anthony, only son of Mr and Mrs H. Whitehead, of Pedreguer, Spain, and Fiona, only daughter of Mrs and the late Mr J.B. Mackie, of Harare, Zimbabwe.

Church services tomorrow

Palm Sunday
ABERDEEN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Darke in E, God so loved the World (Stainer), the Chaplain; 6.30 Choral E, Ashfield in E min (Schutz), Praise to the Lord Jesus, the Provost.
BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 11 Choral Euch; 4 Choral E.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch; 4 Choral E.
BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Palm Sunday Antiphon (Morgan), Gloucester Mass (Shephard), Crucifixus (Lotti), Canon P Johnson; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Plainsong), Dyson in C, the Passion according to St Mark (Sanders), the Dean.
CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10.50 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Canterbury Mass (Moore), Passion (Victoria), Lord remember not (Mendelssohn), the Dean; 3.15 E, Responses (Ebdon), Verse Service (Heath), Salvator mundi (Blow); 6.30 Compline, Our Lady Undercroft.
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna (Weelkes), Wadely in F minor, O Saviour of the world (Goss); 3 E, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Responses (Walsh), Noble in B minor, Blessed Jesu (Dvorak).
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon B Thompson; 11.15 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Remember not Lord our Offences (Purcell), Canon D Knight; 6 Passiontide readings.
CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Family Euch, Rutter in D, Tomas Luis da Vittoria, Drop drop slow tears (Walton), Morning Glory (Rose), the Dean; 11.30 Choral M, Responses (Ebdon), Lamentation of Jeremiah (Bairstow), Bow thine ear (Byrd), Canon O Conway; 3.30 Choral E (Ebdon); 6.30 Service of Meditation.
CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 11 S Euch; 3.30 E.
COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Procession & Euch, Darke in E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Nolo mortem (Morley), Pastor P G Fritz; 3 German Lutherans; 5.30 E, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Responses (Walsh), Behold the Lamb of God (Handel), Rev Dr K Clements.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8, 11.15 HC; 10 M, Lamentation (Bairstow), O pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Goss), the Dean; Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons/ Lloyd), Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Canon S Pedley; 3.30 E, fifth service (Tomkins).
ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son (Trepte), Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Ave verum (Hendrie); 3.45 E, Preces (Tallis), First Service/In manus tuas (Shepherd).
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10 Procession & S Euch, Mass for 5 voices/Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3 E, Responses (Ayleward), Wills - plainsong tones, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 6.30 Special Service, Passion according to St Mark.
LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Mozart in D, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 4 Choral E, Responses (Plainsong), Canon Treasurer.
LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch and Procession, Stanford in B flat, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), St John's Passion (Vittoria), Ave verum corpus (Byrd); 3.30 E, Responses (Smith), Second Service — Hosanna to the son of David (Gibbons).
LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, palms distribution, procession and Passion Gospel; 11.15 M; 3.45 E.
LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Euch & procession of palms, Mass for five voices (Byrd); 3 Choral E, Fourth Service (Batten), Dean of Liverpool; 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, Rev N Court; 9 Euch, blessing of palms, Rev J Redvers Harris; 11 S Euch, Pueri Hebraeorum (Palestrina), Missa O quam gloriosum (Victoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), the Canon; 3.30 Choral E, Blow in F, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons); 6.30 E, Canon D Richards.
MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 MP; 9 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 E; 6.30 Service at St Ann's with Sacred Trinity.
SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch & Procession of Palms, Come faithful people, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes-Gibbons), Missa Bel amfitrit altera (Lassus), Passion Gospel (Victoria), Rev Dr S Barton; 11.45 M, Responses (Clucas), Lamentation (Bairstow), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Canon D Durston; 3 E, Responses (Clucas), Stanford in C, Glory and honour and laud be to thee (Wood).
SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 Euch, Canon C Smith; 6.30 E, Canon J Sinclair.
SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Missa Laudate Dominum (Lassus), Hosanna (Weelkes), Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Passion reading; 3 E, 2nd service (Byrd), Miserere (Allegri), the Provost.
TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, The Treasurer; 10 S Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Hendrie); 6 E, Responses (Plainsong), Sumsion I G, By the waters of Babylon (Wills), the Curate.
WELLS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Sumsion in B flat, If ye love me (Tallis), Rt Rev D Jenkins; 3 E, Fauxbourdon (Morley), Thou O God art praised in Sion (MacPherson), Prebendary W Marlow.
WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Abbey Euch, blessing of palms, Missa Trinitatis Sanctae (Grier), Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria), Salvator mundi (Blow); 3 E, Responses (Tomkins), Purcell in B flat, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Canon C Semper; 6.30 ES, the Dean.
WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10 SM & procession of psalms, Ingrediente Domino (Malcolm), Christus factus est (Anerio), Passion according to St Luke (Victoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), HE The Cardinal; 3.30 V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Bevan), Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria).
WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.35 M; 8 HC; 10 Blessing of Palms & Procession from Westgate; 10.30 Liturgy of Palm Sunday, Mass for 5 voices/Ave verum corpus (Byrd), Toccata (Gowers); 3.30 E, Sumsion in G, Gloria et honore (Handl), Responses (Tallis), Rev E Robertson, Les Rameaux (Langlais).
YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch & Procession of Palms, Missa Brevis (Palestrina), Pueri Hebraeorum/Passion Gospel (Vittoria); 4 E, Stanford in B flat, Responses (plainsong).
ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Stanford in B flat, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), the Dean; 3.30 Choral E, Sumsion in A, Responses (Ayleward), Hosanna to the Son of David.
ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 6 LM; 11.30 SM, procession of palms, A Community Mass (Proulx), Ave Verum (Mozart), Rev M Bowen.
ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 MS & HC, Mass O quam gloriosum (Victoria), the Minister; 11.30, Solus ad Victimam (Leighton), the Minister; 8 ES, Rev J Cuthbertson.
ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 9.30 Euch; 11 S Euch, Missa Cantuariensis (Rubbra), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), St Mark's Passion (Sanders), Rev T Thornton; 3.15 E, Gray in F minor, Responses (Rose), Glory & honour (Wood), Rev J Halliburton.
ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Rachmaninov in B flat, Praise to thee Lord Jesus (Schutz), Rev P McGeary; 6 E&B, Rachmaninov in B flat, O Saviour of the world (Ouseley), Rev P Johnstone.
ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9 C; 11 Rev R Tice; 6.30, Rev S Wookey.
THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street: 10.45, Missa Papae Marcelli (Palestrina), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes).
CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Jubilate (Purcell in B flat), The secret of Christ (Shepherd), Rev P Elvy; 6 E, J Watherston.
CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden: 11.15; 6.30, Rev S Hood.
FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Vexilla Regis (Bruckner), Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Christus factus est (Anerio), Pueri Hebraeorum (Vittoria).
HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road: 9 HC, Tom Peek; 11 Informal, Rev S Downham; 5, 7.30 Informal, Jeremy Jennings.
THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, St Luke Passion (Soriano), Adoramus te Christe (Handl), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Vexilla regis (Wingham).
ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 Divine Liturgy on the Anointment of His Holiness Karekin, the 131st Catholicos and Supreme Patriarch of All Armenians at Holy Etchmiadzin.
WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL: (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr R John Tudor.
ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Choral V, St John Passion (Alessandro Scarlatti).
ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Benedicite (Lloyd), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Ven G Cassidy; 6.30 Choral Euch, Missa Iste Confessor (Palestrina), Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria), Adoramus Te (Ruffo), Rev A Winter.
ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Stanford in B flat, Requiem (Mozart), Canon J Oates.
ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev J McIndoe; 6.30 Requiem (Faure).
ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Pueri Hebraeorum (Victoria), Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria), Improperium (Lassus), Mass XVII (Plainsong), Peccantum me quotidie (de Monte).
ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in D, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), the Rector.
ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul.
ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch & Palm Procession, Missa Brevis (Seiber), O quam suavis (Jumel), Rev B Wilson; 6 Choral E, Fauxbourdons (Holmes), Salvator Mundi (Tallis).
ST JOHN'S, Stratford E15: 11 Family, Processional (Mathias), Rev J Meadway; 6.30 HC, Rev J Richardson.
ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Passion Gospel & Palms, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons); 6.30 E, Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell).
ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch, Passion (Victoria), Missa Brevis (Walton), (Ecce quomodo Moritur Justus.— Handl).
ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Passion according to St Matthew (Victoria), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons).
ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, St Martin's Service (Stringer), Five Part Mass (Byrd); 11.30 Visitors, O for a closer walk with God (Crispin Lewis), Responses (Tomkins), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), the Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E; 6.30 ES, Taize Choir, Rev B Schunemann.
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, Kensington: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 Euch, Rev Dr K Eastell; 11.15 Choral M, Rev P Arnold; 6.30 Choral E, Rev F Gelli.
ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 Procession & HM, Music by Weelkes, Anerio (Lassus & Victoria); 5.30 E; 6 B & Stations of Cross.
ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Wood in the Phrygian Mode, St Matthew Passion (Plainsong), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons).
ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Euch & Procession, Missa Bel "Amfitrit" altera (Lassus), O Sainte Croix (D'Indy), Bishop D Arden.
ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place: 8, 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Plainsong, Passion (Victoria), Hosanna (Gibbon/Weelkes), O vos omnes (Gesualdo).
ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Euch; 11 S Euch, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Mass for 4 voices (Tallis), St Luke Passion (Lassus).
ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Rd: 8, 9 LM; 10.45 SM, St Matthew Passion (Victoria), Missa a 5 (Byrd), Canon C Colven; 6 B & Stations of Cross.
CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Responses, J Britten in C, Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Canon J G M Murphy.
CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Darke in F, Canon E A James.
CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Purcell in B flat, Fauxbourdons (Healey Willan); 3.30 Carol Service.
GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch & Procession, Missa Euge Bone (Tye), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Christus Factus est (Bruckner), Rev S Hobbs.
QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Rev Canon R Royle.
GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Bcks: 11 M, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Glory and honour (Wood), Rev K Joyce; 12 HC.
ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich: 11 S Euch, God be in my head (Rutter), Rejoice in the Lord (Redford), Rev F Frean.

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All that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never turn away.
John 6 : 37 (REB).

BIRTHS

BAILEY - On 30th March, to Sue and Paul, slightly unexpectedly, a son, Harry George Bakewell, brother for Laura and Jack.

BRIMACOMBE - On 31st March 1995, to Caroline (née Wardle) and John, a son, Benjamin John.

COLLIE - On 1st April 1995, to Nargess (née Farzad) and George, a son, James (Jamie) Aman Jory.

DE BOKAY - On April 1st at The Portland Hospital, to Marie-Caroline (née Lichtenauer) and Henri, a beautiful daughter, Alice Catherine Eugenie.

FOSH - On April 3rd, to Helena (née Van der Kun) and Matthew, a son, Maximilian Arthur, a brother to Tallitha.

HORSLEY - On March 29th, to Nicola (née Spence) and Julian, a son, Thomas Michael.

JEWERS - On April 5th 1995, to Fiona (née Shaw Stewart) and Guy, a son, John Euan.

NAKAYAMA - On March 29th 1995 at The Portland Hospital, to Kumiko and Koichi, a daughter, Emiko (Amy).

PARKHOUSE - On March 7th 1995, to Philippa (née Scott) and Mark, a daughter, Antoinette Frances.

PURCELL - On March 21st 1995 at Nairobi Hospital, Kenya, to Zoë (née Miller) and Roland, a daughter, Isabella.

RATTUE - On March 30th 1995, at Edgware General Hospital, to Andrew and Jacky (née Roynon), a son, Benjamin Edward, a brother for Polly.

STIRRUP - On March 30th 1995, to Nicky (née Fox) and Adrian, a son, Edward William, a brother for Katie.

SYDER - On April 6th, to Tim and Charlotte (née Ayrton-Grime), a daughter, Lucia Rose, a sister to Harry and Emilie.

TATHAM - On April 2nd in Bath, to Caroline (née Smith) and Nicholas, a daughter, Phoebe Elizabeth, a sister for Chloe.

THOMAS - On April 4th, to Sally (née Cox) and Mark, a daughter, Rosemary Claire, a sister for Rebecca.

YIANNIS-PEARCE - On March 26th in Mytilene, Greece, to Hilary (née Pearce) and Vangelis, a fine son, Noah Alexander, a brother for Vasilis.

DEATHS

BODDAM-WHETHAM - Cdr. Patrick on April 5th, much loved husband of Podge and father of Anna, Pella, Sue and Andrew. Funeral 2 pm on 13th April at Marcham Church. Donations in lieu of flowers please to the R.N.L.I. c/o Barratts Funeral Directors, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. tel: (01235) 520808.

DALZELL - On April 5th 1995 peacefully at Thornton-le-Dale, Dorothy Gertrude Dalzell, formerly of Langdale Chase, Windermere and Burton in Kendal. Funeral at Troutbeck Church, Windermere, on 12th April at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Injured Jockey Fund. All enquiries to Milne Moser Solicitors, 100 Highgate, Kendal. (01539) 729786.

GLENDENNING - On 6th April 1995, peacefully at Davidson House, Cerne Abbas, Harry Charles aged 75 years. Beloved husband of Christine, much loved father of Ian and dear father-in-law of Joan. Loving grandad of Jennifer, Victoria and John. Funeral Service on Thursday 13th April at Weymouth Crematorium 12.30 pm. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, may be sent for Davidson House Nursing Home, Cerne Abbas c/o Grassby Funeral Service, 16 Princes Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1TW. tel: (01305) 262338.

HAGGIS - In Paris, on April 5th 1995, after an illness which, for years, she bore discreetly and with great courage. Sheila Mary (née Hellewell) dearly loved wife of the late Bernard Murray Haggis and lately the Director responsible for Science Education at UNESCO. Cremation at Père-Lachaise Cemetery, Paris on Wednesday April 12th at 10.45 am. Family flowers only, please, but donations in memory of Sheila, for the Cancer Research Campaign, may be sent direct to Cambridge House, 6-10 Cambridge Terrace, London NW1 4JL. A Service of Thanksgiving will be arranged in Sheffield at a later date.

NISBET - Duncan Robert Alexander. On 8th April. Beloved, son of Margaret and Robin, brother of Helen and Fiona, uncle of Victoria and David, friend of other relatives and his very many friends. Funeral on Thursday 13th April St Nicholas Church, Harpenden 1.45 pm. Enquiries and flowers to L.C. Weston's No 26, 17 Leyton Road, Harpenden AL5 2HY. Donations to The Cat Survival Trust. He lived his life to the full and was loved by all whom he knew.

NOFFS - Reverend Ted, passed away morning of 6th April at Scottish Hospital, Sydney, Australia. Survived by loving wife Margaret, sons Wesley, David and Theodore, and daughters-in-law Amanda and Laurie and five grandsons. Funeral to be held at St Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney. Memorial Service to be held in London. Enquiries please contact Life Education Centres, tel: (0171) 706-8966.

PLATT - On April 5th 1995, peacefully in The John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, Mavis aged 59 years, the beloved wife of John, loving mother of Anthea and James and dearly loved daughter of Gladys. Funeral Service at Pembroke College Chapel on Wednesday April 12th at 2.30 pm, followed by cremation. Flowers to R.L. Bromley & Son, 146 Magdalen Road, Oxford.

POYNTZ - Peacefully on April 6th 1995, John Philip, aged 84 years, of Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos. Re-united with his loving wife Madeline. Sadly missed by all of his family. Funeral Service St Lawrence Church, Bourton-on-the-Water, Wednesday April 12th at 10.45 am, followed by cremation. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, for The Alzheimer's Disease Society c/o W.J. Wright Funeral Director, Well Lane, Stow-on-the-Wold. Cheltenham. Glos.

PRYOR - On April 7th, Anne, widow of Johnny, mother of Alice, Pippa, Elizabeth and Margaret and their families. Funeral Thursday 13th April 3 pm at Holy Trinity Church, Weston. Garden flowers only.

DEATHS

WILLIAMS - On April 1st, at Battle Hospital Reading, A.D.C. Williams (Pat) aged 80, of Hampstead Norreys. Funeral Service at St Mary's Church, Hampstead Norreys, Thursday April 13th at 2 pm followed by cremation. Family flowers only.

WORLLEDGE - Ruby, widow of Major Franklin Herbert Worlledge, Indian Army and RAF, beloved mother of Vivian and Midgy, much loved grandmother and great-grandmother, died peacefully aged 92 on 6th April at Southampton General Hospital where she received loving care from the nurses. The cremation will be at Southampton Cemetery, Bassett Green Road, on Wednesday 12th April at 12.15 pm. Please contact J.N. Steel & Son Ltd. on (01703) 252088 for further details.

IN MEMORIAM – WAR

BARNES - Eric Esmond Scourfield. Lieut. The Cheshire Regt. Killed in action 9th April 1945 aged 24 years. We remember him with love and pride.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

GOODMAN - Robert. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bob Goodman will be held on Saturday June 3rd 1995 at 2.30 pm at Tardebigge Church, near Bromsgrove.

MARRIAGES

STOKES:GODDARD - The marriage took place on 1st April 1995, at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Essex. Jonathan Stokes to Jennifer Goddard.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

BIGIO:FRANCO - In Cairo on 8th April 1945. Eric Bigio, War Correspondent of the Daily Express, to Yvette Franco of Istanbul. Present address: 22 Adelaide Ristori, Rome 00197, Italy.

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LEGAL NOTICES

UNILEVER N.V.
Rotterdam The Netherlands
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

On Wednesday, 3rd May, 1995 at 10.30 a.m. in the "Kleine Zaal" of the "Concert-en Congresgebouw de Doelen", entrance Kruisplein 30, Rotterdam

AGENDA

1. Consideration of the Annual Report for the 1994 financial year submitted by the Board of Directors.
2. Approval and adoption of the Annual Accounts and appropriation of the profit for the 1994 financial year.
3. Appointment of the members of the Board of Directors.
4. Appointment of Auditors.
5. Designation, in accordance with Articles 96 and 96a of Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code, of the Board of Directors as the Company body authorised in respect of the issue of shares in the Company.
6. Authorisation, in accordance with Article 98 of Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code, of the Board of Directors to purchase shares in the Company and trust certificates therefore.
7. Questions.

This agenda, the Report and Accounts for 1994, and the information to be provided in accordance with Article 392, para. 1, of Book 2 of the Netherlands Civil Code and the further documentation pertaining to the Agenda are available for inspection by shareholders and holders of certificates issued by N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor at the Company's office, Weena 455, Rotterdam, and at the office of the Bank mentioned below, where copies may be obtained free of charge.

(A) Holders of bearer shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must deposit their share certificates by Wednesday, 26th April, 1995 at the Company's office or at the office of the Midland Securities Services, Client Delivery, Midland Bank plc, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA or any of its branches. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them such holders will be admitted to the meeting.

(B) Holders of registered shares for which certificates have been issued in another form and holders of booked shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must notify the Company of their intention by letter, stating the numbers of the share certificates or of the bookings for the shares, which must reach Unilever N.V., Afdeling Effecten en Coupons, Weena 455, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, by Wednesday, 26th April, 1995.

(C) Holders of certificates for shares in Unilever N.V. issued by N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor of Amsterdam, "Nedamtrust certificates", wishing to attend the meeting without taking part in the voting must deposit such certificates by Wednesday 26th April, 1995 at any of the offices mentioned in (A) above. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them, such Nedamtrust certificate holders will be admitted to the meeting.

(D) If holders of the certificates mentioned in (C) above wish to exercise voting rights at the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing, by way of a two-way voting form, N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor will exchange such certificates free of charge for original shares, which it will hold in the names of such holders at its own office (such office being the designated place of deposit in the event) and exchange the same again after the meeting free of charge for Nedamtrust certificates to be issued to such holders in accordance with the conditions of administration of these certificates. For such purposes holders must by Tuesday, 25th April, 1995 surrender their certificates for Fl. 4 or a multiple thereof (but, in the case of certificates for 7% cumulative preference shares, representing a total nominal amount of Fl. 1,000 or a multiple thereof) to N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor, Herengracht 420, Amsterdam. The certificates so surrendered must be accompanied by a form obtainable free of charge from N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor, Amsterdam. Upon production of the receipts then issued holders will be admitted to the meeting.

Rotterdam, 8th April, 1995 THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEGAL NOTICES

Case Number 94 PAT 0051
IN THE PATENTS
COUNTY COURT
BETWEEN:
DEARING LAMBERT & CO.
Plaintiff
and
CHARLES LEEKAM
ASSOCIATES Defendant

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Plaintiff herein intends to apply to the Patents County Court (Situate at The Central London County Court 13-14 Park Crescent, London, W1N 3PD, telephone 0171 917 5000) at 10.15 o'clock on Monday the 22nd May 1995 for judgment to be entered in favour of the Plaintiff together with interest thereon and costs pursuant to an order made by His Honour Judge Ford on the 13th of January 1995, in terms that:-

1. Unless the Defendant files and serves his Affidavit in answer to the Plaintiff's Affidavit sworn on the 10th of February 1994 within 21 days the Defence be struck out and the counterclaim be dismissed and the Plaintiff be at liberty to enter judgment against the Defendant for the combined sum of the consolidated proceedings together with interest thereon at the rate of 15% per annum until the 31st March 1995 and 8% per annum from the 1st of April 1995 pursuant to section 69 of the County Courts Act 1984 together with costs including the costs of this application to be taxed and paid by the Defendant to the Plaintiff.
2. If the Defendant serves his affidavit then the Plaintiff be at liberty to serve a Reply if so advised within 21 days thereafter.
3. The hearing of the Plaintiff's application for summary judgment be set down for Tuesday the 4th of April 1995 at 10.15 a.m. before the Patents Judge or such other Judge as may be designated with a time estimate of 2 hours.
4. The Defendant to pay the Plaintiff's costs in any event.
5. Liberty to apply.

AND FURTHER TAKE NOTICE THAT this advertisement is deemed to be good and sufficient service of the aforementioned order upon the Defendant pursuant to the order of Judge Peter Ford of this court dated the 3rd of April 1995.

TO The Defendant: Upon this notice coming to your attention you should contact the Patents County Court immediately. FAILURE TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE COULD MEAN THAT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AGAINST YOU IN DEFAULT AND WITHOUT FURTHER NOTICE TO YOU.

This advertisement was taken out by Messrs. Fishers of 6-8 Kilwardby Street, Ashby-de-la-Zouch Leics LE65 2FU (Telephone: (01530) 412167. Reference MCAK/PB/D104005). Solicitors for the Plaintiff.

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

CHRISTIAN PINEAU

Christian Pineau, French Foreign Minister, 1956-58, died in Paris on April 5 aged 90. He was born in Chaumont, Haute Marne, on October 14, 1904.

WITH his experience as a French Resistance leader and a Buchenwald prisoner, Christian Pineau had no doubt of the need for the West to resist by force President Nasser's seizure of the Suez Canal in 1956. And as French Foreign Minister at the time, he played an active role in the the collusion with Israel that resulted in Anglo-French air attacks on Egypt and the short-lived capture by paratroopers of Port Said and Port Fuad.

Many years later, in *Suez* (1976), his book on the affair, and in an earlier discussion programme on BBC Radio's Third Programme in 1966, he disclosed some of the details of how the Anglo-French collusion with the Israelis was arranged at highly secret meetings between senior members of the three governments held in the Paris suburb of Sèvres between October 21 and October 24.

Vividly capturing what he called the James Bond atmosphere that surrounded the conspiracy, he recalled receiving a call at the Quai d'Orsay from Guy Mollet, France's Socialist Prime Minister, telling him to go alone to an address in Sèvres to meet "important Israelis". Dispensing, therefore, with the motorcade which more usually accompanied French Government ministers on their travels, Pineau slipped out of the French Foreign Ministry, took his own car and headed west. Night fell and he had considerable difficulty finding the villa. He did not know exactly whom he was going to meet and stepped into a room to be confronted by four people sitting in front of bowls of soup that were getting cold. They were David Ben-Gurion, the Israeli Prime Minister; Golda Meir, the Foreign Minister, Moshe Dayan, the Chief of the Israel Defence Forces General Staff and Shimon Peres, then director general of the Ministry of Defence.

The French Government was represented at the ensuing discussions by Guy Mollet, the Prime Minister, Pineau and Bourgès Maunoury, the Defence Minister. The British Government representatives, who joined the meeting only on the second day, were Selwyn Lloyd, the Foreign Secretary, and Patrick Dean, Assistant Under-Secretary of State in the Foreign Office.

Pineau described how Ben-Gurion explained that Israel was resolved to make a pre-emptive strike against Egypt, for which she needed Anglo-French air support. Pineau said he flew to London and reported as much "to the full Cabinet". Eden, said Pineau, promptly agreed to give the requested air support but added that Israeli forces should not be allowed to occupy the Canal zone. Instead, Anglo-French ground forces should occupy both banks of the Canal, thus making it plain that "we are not a party to the Arab-Israeli conflict but, as neutrals, are interested solely in maintaining freedom of passage through the Canal".

Pineau commented that this seemed to him too hypocritical to convince public opinion. To his query whether, in the event of the victorious Israelis crossing the Canal, it would be necessary to fight them, Eden answered "yes" — adding that there must be guarantees against Israel attacking Jordan.

When the Sèvres conference resumed, this time with the British present, the atmosphere was tense, said Pineau. Ben-Gurion spoke bitterly about "British duplicity" throughout the ages; Guy Mollet had to act as guarantor of British good faith. Finally, the so-called "Sèvres protocol" was established and agreed to by all three parties. It noted, said Pineau, the Israeli plan to attack on October 29, the Anglo-French plan to appeal to Israel and Egypt for a ceasefire and withdrawal, and the intention, if that appeal was ignored, to use (Anglo-French) force to make sure it was heeded. Such was British sensitivity that Eden belatedly asked that all copies should be destroyed — a request that was refused.

Discussing these events on the BBC Third Programme in July 1966, Pineau said it was absolutely necessary for everybody to keep quiet about the arrangements at the time. "A treaty like the Anglo-French-Israeli treaty was necessarily secret because the circumstances were very difficult."

Christian Pineau was the son of a French Army colonel who died when he was 12. His mother then married Jean Giraudoux, the writer. The younger Pineau did not follow in his father's footsteps. After taking a degree in political science, he began work at the Banque de France but was dismissed for trying to unionise employees. He then became secretary to Leon Jouhaux, a leading non-Communist trade union leader.

When the Second World War began Pineau joined his stepfather, Giraudoux, at the Ministry of Information and after the fall of France in 1940 created "Liberation-Nord", the first resistance network to operate in the occupied zone. After two years he escaped to London where he joined de Gaulle and helped to define a political platform for the Free French, in effect giving it the endorsement of the Socialists.

In 1941 Pineau returned to France with Jean Moulin, the head of the French Resistance, and, after Moulin's capture by the Gestapo, was the last to see him alive. He later recalled finding Moulin's mutilated body draped over a bench. He nursed his wounds, shaved him and stayed with him for four hours before Moulin was put on a train to Paris. Moulin died en route.

Later, while returning from the last of several secret flights to London, he was landing by parachute when he was captured by the Gestapo.

He escaped but was recaptured and was sentenced to death. He avoided execution, however, and spent 18 months in Buchenwald concentration camp where he gained a reputation among other prisoners of having immense powers of self-control and personal responsibility.

Three weeks after being freed from Buchenwald he joined de Gaulle's Government as Minister of Food, gaining unwelcomed publicity for prematurely announcing the end of rationing. In the 1945 elections he won a National Assemby seat as a Socialist Deputy and two years later was appointed Minister of Transport and Public Works, retaining the portfolio in successive governments until 1951. He was Finance Minister under Robert Schumann but his main achievements were those in the 1956-58 period at the Quai d'Orsay. This turbulent period saw the approaching dénouement of the Algerian War.

Pineau travelled widely and was regarded as the most active of France's postwar foreign ministers. Rejecting the concept of the "two bloc" division of power, he adopted the stance of a "neutralist" which did not always endear him to France's Western allies. He attracted much criticism at home for his attempts to give the French colonies of Tunisia and Morocco the accoutrements of independence and for his efforts to reach a negotiated peace in Algeria.

When President Nasser seized the Suez Canal, Pineau made it clear that, if force was needed, France was ready to use it. Colonel Nasser, he said, was "a dictator on a much smaller scale than Hitler, but his impulses are no less dangerous".

Among Pineau's less belligerent actions during his time as Foreign Minister was the signing, on behalf of France, in 1957, of the Treaty of Rome which established the European Economic Community.

Away from politics, he was the successful author of children's books which he began writing initially for the amusement of his six children. He also wrote a moving account of the time he had spent in Buchenwald, *Krematorium*, and a biography of Nikita Khrushchev. His most vivid memory of the Soviet leader, he said, was of a reception at which Khrushchev proposed 32 toasts in vodka. "I was pretty pleased with myself," he wrote. "I was still on my feet at the the end. But Sergei Vinogradov, the Russian Ambassador in Paris, had to go and lie down. He was completely exhausted."

Christian Pineau is survived by his third wife and five of his six children. His first marriage ended in divorce and his second with the death of his wife.

LORD ADRIAN

Lord Adrian, FRS, Master of Pembroke College, 1981-92, and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, 1985-87, died from cancer on April 4 aged 67. He was born on October 16, 1927.

RICHARD ADRIAN belonged to one of Cambridge's most distinguished academic families. He learnt about the demands of high office from his father, the first Lord Adrian, a Nobel prizewinner and sometime Master of Trinity College and Chancellor of Cambridge University. For his own part, Richard Adrian combined the roles of Master of Pembroke College and Vice-Chancellor of the University with a full timetable as Professor of Cell Physiology.

Adrian took over as Master of Pembroke in 1981, succeeding the classicist William Camps. He already had a broad knowledge of Cambridge colleges, having been an undergraduate at Trinity, a fellow of Corpus Christi and one of the founding fellows at Churchill College.

He immediately set about tackling one of the thorniest questions in Cambridge in the early 1980s — the admission of women into men's colleges. At Pembroke this subject had been hotly debated in the 1970s and the issue been all but resolved, but Adrian felt that the college still needed to clarify its position and without delay. By 1982 Pembroke's statutes were amended to allow the admission of women. The first female graduates duly arrived in October 1983, the first undergraduates in October 1984 and the first woman fellow, Dr Valerie Kyle, was admitted in October 1983.

The academic standing of Pembroke at all levels was paramount to him, and during his time there the number of graduate students doubled to 140. But other aspects of college life — the chapel, music, rowing, the Stokes Society and the staff Christmas party — were not neglected. Adrian took a paternal interest in all of his students and enjoyed nothing more than a rousing discussion with them. Lunches, dinners and drinks on the newly-designed terrace of the Master's Lodge became a feature of college life during his time there.

Despite his readiness to listen to all sides of an argument, Adrian stood firm on matters of principle. He used his hereditary seat in the House of Lords — where he sat as a crossbencher — to speak against various aspects of the Education Reform Bill, passed in 1988, which he felt were not in the interests of higher education. He and his colleagues eventually secured modifications to the original proposals, notably those guaranteeing the autonomy of the universities' teaching programmes from the central funding council.

Richard Hume Adrian was the son of Edgar D. Adrian — a physiologist who had shared the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1932 for his research into the function of the nerve cell. When Richard Adrian married Lucy Caroe in 1967, he joined an equally distinguished family. His wife's mother was the sister of Sir Lawrence Bragg, a Nobel prizewinner for physics and son of the late Sir William Bragg, who had shared the Nobel prize. Richard Adrian's sister was married to Richard Keynes, son of Sir Geoffrey, the surgeon and bibliophile who married a Darwin, and a nephew of John Maynard Keynes.

As his father's only son, Richard Adrian was heir not just to his peerage but to certain academic expectations. These latter he amply fulfilled. He was educated — like his father — at Westminster and Trinity, and he followed him into a career in physiology. He was made a university demonstrator in 1956, a university lecturer in 1961, a Reader in Experimental Biophysics in 1968 and Professor of Cell Physiology in 1978.

His biggest contribution to the subject came through studying the effects of electrical charges on muscle fibres. He began by studying how ions move across the membranes of muscle cells and went on to demonstrate how electrical changes spread into the muscle fibre where contraction takes place.

His papers on the subject were usually published in the *Journal of Physiology* and even his early ones are still widely quoted. To his students he was a natural and generous lecturer, eager to impart knowledge rather than impress his audience with his own brilliance. He was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society in 1977, and sat on numerous other boards and scientific councils.

Like his father, Adrian was devoted to north Norfolk, where he owned a house and sailed. He was also a keen skier. He retired as a professor and as Master of Pembroke in 1992. He hoped then to make a further contribution to education from his seat in the House of Lords, but in the event he was diagnosed with cancer soon after retirement. He is survived by his wife, a geographer and herself a former teaching fellow of Newnham College. There were no children.

DAME FELICITY YONGE

Dame Felicity Yonge, DBE, private secretary to successive Conservative Party chairmen and Chief Whips, died on April 1 aged 74. She was born on February 28, 1921.

QUIET and unassuming, Felicity Yonge was of a nature that did not create waves. But she had an extraordinary capacity to instil confidence in those for whom she worked and with whom she made enduring friendships. She managed to combine an air of calmness — a much admired attribute in the kind of high-pressure environment in which she led her professional life — with a sense of fun and a capacity for enjoyment.

It was not just that she was an efficient administrator, to whom Conservative Party chairmen and, later, Chief Whips were often indebted; she also became an expert on party management and on House of Commons procedure. Her role was often demanding but it was one which she carried out with total dependability.

Ida Felicity Anne Yonge was born of a naval family, her father being Commander Humphry Yonge. A cradle Catholic, she was educated at the Convent of the Holy Child, St Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, and was planning to study social sciences at Bedford College, London, when the Second World War broke out.

Following in the family tradition — her father, who had retired before the war, immediately returned to the Royal Navy — Felicity Yonge volunteered for the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS). She served throughout the war as a second officer decoding ciphers, an occupation which took her to Australia and Hong Kong, and forming a number of friendships which helped her to decide on her future career after the war had ended.

On leaving the service she undertook secretarial work but her war experience had clearly given her a fascination for the sea, for she became an assistant purser with the P&O line, serving on the Australia run, a job which helped her to keep friendships made during the war in good repair.

Her contact with the Conservative Party came about through an uncle, John Gilbert Lockhart, who was secretary of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. Felicity Yonge began by organising open-air meetings for the Conservative Party in the London area on a part-time basis, and she was soon asked to join Central Office full-time, working in the offices of the party chairman.

Her qualities were soon recognised and she became private secretary to Lord Poole in 1955, a role she was to continue with successive chairmen, including Lord Hailsham, R. A. Butler, Iain Macleod and Lord Blakenham. One of the earliest memories of her years at Conservative Central Office was when, as a secretary, she had to reply to people's requests for a cigar band from one of Sir Winston Churchill's cigars.

After his defeat in 1964 she became for nine months private secretary to Sir Alec Douglas-Home and, when he resigned as Leader of the Opposition, moved to the Conservative Whips' Office. In 1970, when the Tories got back to power, William Whitelaw, on his appointment as Leader of the House, took her with him to the Lord President's Office as his assistant private secretary. She had a similar role with James Prior when he succeeded Whitelaw in 1972.

Between 1974 and 1979, when the Conservatives were back in Opposition, her expertise and acquired knowledge were called upon by Humphrey Atkins, who had been appointed Opposition Chief Whip. She remained as his private secretary until the Conservatives were returned to power in 1979. Michael Jopling, as Government Chief Whip, then appointed her as his special adviser in the Chief Whip's Office at 12 Downing Street, where she stayed until her retirement in 1983. Appointed MBE in 1958, she was created DBE in 1982.

Once retired, she maintained her contact with her parliamentary colleagues — one of her great pleasures was entertaining her friends to supper or Sunday lunch at her Wimbledon home — but that did not stop her from widening her horizons. She became a tower of strength to her local Roman Catholic church and did volunteer work for the Royal United Kingdom Benevolent Association, even during the onset of an increasingly painful spinal illness which she bore with typical courage.

She also developed a keen interest in opera and was an enthusiastic member of the Wimbledon Bridge Club — leisure activities she was never able fully to pursue while working at Westminster with its long, demanding hours.

Dame Felicity Yonge was unmarried and is survived by an older sister.

PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

[illegible]

...ing claims. A creditor who does not make a claim by that date will not be included in the proposed final distribution.
31 March 1995
R Marsh.
Joint Liquidator

IN THE MATTER OF EROS 2 DESIGN CONSULTANCY LTD (FORMERLY ARK D DESIGN LTD) AND THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a meeting of the creditors fo the above named company convened under the provisions of S.98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 and held on 3 April 1995, I, Melvyn Julian Carter, of Carter Backer Winter, Hill House, Highgate Hill, London, N19 5UU was duly appointed Liquidator of the company.
M J Carter
Dated this 3rd April 1995

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified; after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

JAMES HENDRIE late of 82 Wordsworth Street, Darlington, County Durham, died 14th December 1982. Particulars to Hunton & Garget, Solicitors, Burgage House, Richmond, North Yorkshire DL10 4JL.

LEWINGTON Nancy Susan of 1 Heath Road, Reading, Berkshire died on 20th March 1995. Particulars to Serjeant & Sheppard Solicitors of 150 Friar Street, Reading, Berkshire before 17th June 1995.

TRUSTEE ACTS

[illegible]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAVE you fallen in love whilst travelling by train in Europe? If so, a film company would like to hear your story PO Box 5312

HUGHES Tom and Trish of Slough, Berkshire, leave today for New Zealand, best wishes from Cyril, Vicky and Bethany.

TORY CHERRYL Please contact Christopher Logue Tel 0171 703 7653

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ANIMALS IN NEED

[illegible]

YOUR WILL
If you are making your will please think of BLESMA. We care for all ex-service men and women who have lost limbs in the service of this country.
Enquiries to The Chairman, British Limbless Ex-Service Men's Association, c/o Midland Bank plc, 60 West Smithfield, London EC1A.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, whenever conflict arises. Last year over £775 million was needed to help over 18,000 cases.
Please help with a donation or remember us in your will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
DEPT. 4TT, 67 PORTLAND PLACE, LONDON W1N 4AR

Court & Social Page
Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply:-
All notices to appear on Friday April 14th; Saturday April 15th; Monday April 17th; Tuesday April 18th must be received in writing by 5pm on Wednesday April 12th.
All notices are accepted subject to confirmation.
Tel: 0171 782 7347 Fax: 0171 481 9313

THE TIMES
NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS
To place your Birth, Marriage or Death Notices over the Easter Holiday period please call during the following times.
Thursday 13th April 9.00am - 12.00 noon
Friday 14th April 9.30am - 2.00pm
Saturday 15th April 9.00am - 12 noon
Monday 16th April 9.30 - 2.00pm
Tel: 0171 782 7272. Fax: 0171 782 7799
Where our staff will be available to take your call.

TIGERS EXTINCT?

THE TIGER TRUST

Yes. The magnificent wild tiger could be extinct in the wild in a few short years unless immediate action is taken to prevent the current tiger crisis turning into an international tragedy. The Tiger Trust is the only organisation in the world exclusively fighting to save the majestic wild tiger from extinction.
To find out more, or to make an immediate donation write to:
THE TIGER TRUST, Chevington, BSE Suffolk IP29 5RG. Reg. Charity No. 1014670

ON THIS DAY

April 8, 1953

Cartoon films are as old as the cinema itself. But it was Walt Disney who realised their potential as hugely successful mass entertainment. Yet there was criticism that the pleasant exaggerations of fantasy could descend to wild and witless extravagance.

FILM CARTOONS
RECOVERY AFTER DECLINE

BY OUR FILM CRITIC

The cinema was very young when it discovered that it was born with a magic wand in its hand. Trick photography, which is in itself a kind of cartoon, was always liable to break into the action of even the earliest comedies, and only the technical work and difficulties involved in the production of thousands of small, separate drawings stood in the way of the development of the cartoon film on an impressive scale. The conventional cinema should, indeed, offer the cartoon the warmest of welcomes, for the main pre-occupations of both should be with a succession of imaginative visual images. In the early days there were, it is true, Felix the Cat and Mutt and Jeff, but it was not until Mr Walt Disney came along with Mickey Mouse and the Silly Symphonies that the cartoon woke up to a realisation of its own potentialities.

The story of Disney, so far as it is yet written, is one in which bright promise falls deeper and deeper into the shadow of disappointment — it is as though one of his own enchanting animals had ventured too far into one of his own dark and sinister forests. There were once two Disneys, the humorist who amused himself with Mickey and, incidentally, made most brilliant use of the new invention of sound, and the lyrical versifier — poet is putting it too high — who created the entirely successful *Flowers and Trees*. They worked in close and happy harmony with the nature of the medium they used, and the lunatic distortions, the exaggerated raucousness, the frenzied fantasies, with which Donald Duck assailed the screen were as far removed from the adventures of Mickey as the dubious prettiness of *Fantasia* was from the flowing, graceful lines of the Silly Symphonies.

It is possible to see Donald Duck as a heroic rebel, a last-ditch individualist, or to argue that he represented the frustrated fury felt by the common man as the Thirties drew to their catastrophic close, but, whatever the motive for his peculiar behaviour, it had a disastrous effect on the cartoon. From the pleasant exaggerations of an inventive humour, the cartoon descended to the depths inhabited by such creatures as "Bugs" Bunny and "Tweetie-Pie," where all is a chaos of insensate physical disaster, and the point and essence of fantasy are lost in wild and witless extravagance.

There were always, however, isolated cartoons, such as the French *Joie de Vivre*, to keep the true tradition alive, and there are welcome signs today that the cartoon is recovering a proper pride in itself. Perhaps the cartoon will always be happiest with animals, and perhaps the human figure, at least if it is drawn as stiffly as Snow White or Cinderella, will always prove something of an intruder into the lovely, animated world of cartoon nature, but the new U.P.A. films at least make their humans expressive, funny and individual. Gerald McBoing Boing may owe his reputation to an entrancing trick with sound, but he is a boy in his own right, and many people number a Mr Magoo, that bumbling, short-sighted old gentleman with a dash of W. C. Fields in him, among their acquaintance.

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY APRIL 8 1995

NEWS

Marchioness 'unlawful killing' verdict

■ The Government faced renewed calls last night for a public inquiry into the *Marchioness* pleasure boat disaster after an inquest jury found that the 51 victims had been unlawfully killed.

The jury also issued 12 recommendations aimed at preventing a repeat of the tragedy that resulted when the *Marchioness* and the dredger *Bowbelle* collided in 1989.......................... **Pages 1, 3**

Ingram lawyers to sue Georgia prison

■ Lawyers for Nicholas Ingram, the British-born murderer, plan to file a law suit against the Georgia prison authorities, claiming he was treated "like an animal". He was shaved for execution in the electric chair nearly half an hour after a *temporary 24-hour stay of execution was granted*..... **Pages 1, 11**

Major defended

Douglas Hurd led a Cabinet bid to snuff out talk of a challenge to John Major's leadership after the party's Scottish rout.......... **Page 1**

National favourite

Master Oats enters the Grand National as the firm favourite with the punters. The bookmakers ex*pect a record £100 million* turnover.............................. **Page 1**

Chinese treasures

Spectacular treasures, more remarkable than anything seen in China, have been unearthed by archaeologists .... **Page 5**

Prison doubts

The Archbishop of Canterbury questions a central tenet of Michael Howard's criminal justice policy: *that prison works*........ **Page 7**

Night pay threat

The threat of industrial action by GPs over night payments is growing, doctors leaders have claimed................................ **Page 8**

Abuse over closures

Sir Bernard Tomlinson, the architect of the London hospital closures, has spoken for the first time of the vilification and abuse he suffered over the project.... **Page 8**

Silent reprieve

Sixty-five minutes before Nicholas Ingram was to be executed he won *a reprieve but was not told for* another 40 minutes.......... **Page 11**

Emissions deal

The world's nations yesterday agreed a deal to cut emissions of greenhouse gases at the Berlin climate summit .... **Page 14**

Fish talks resume

Talks resumed on the "fish war" as most European governments began to back Spain......... **Page 15**

Doctors triumph

Indian doctors with British qualifications will be allowed to practise in their own country after a Delhi court ruling............ **Page 17**

Golden girl challenges Tyson to fight

■ Jill Matthews stopped her opponent in the first round then turned to the cameras and announced: "I want Tyson!" She had *just become one of the first women to win a title in the New York* Golden Gloves tournament .... **Page 11**

TIM CUFF/APEX

The pilot of this Westland helicopter was praised for baling out late to avoid houses when it crashed near Honiton, Devon. Three other crew members are believed to have baled out when it developed a fault at 12,000ft. Page 1

OPINION

Black weekend: A breeding pair of ospreys will now become a commoner sight in Scotland than a Conservative councillor.................. **Page 19**

Climate for bargains: The battle to guard against global warming will be lost if rich countries alone take precautionary conservation measures .... **Page 19**

Close encounters: *The Enlightenment spirit of rationalism and scepticism has not dimmed our desire to pursue the weird, the portentous and* the inexplicable......... **Page 19**

LETTERS

The value of reading Latin *and Greek in translation as* opposed to reading the real thing......................... **Page 19**

Simon Jenkins: American executions are a reversion to an earlier age. Death rows, with their ghoulish banter and last-minute reprieves, are the new Wild West......... **Page 18**

Irwin M. Stelzer: After his largely successful 100-day *Contract*, what next for Newt *Gingrich? The hard part of* his Republican revolution is ahead......................... **Page 18**

No political settlement in Bu*rundi has a chance unless it* includes ethnic integration of government military forces

The New York Times

Neither North Korea nor Iran are to be trusted; both *work towards acquiring* weapons of mass destruction

— The Washington Times

British Gas: Leading pension funds are to challenge the 75 per cent pay rise awarded to *British Gas chief executive* Cedric Brown........... **Page 23**

Currency turmoil: Finance ministers and central bankers are under pressure to take action to halt the slide of the US dollar................. **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 10.0 points to close at 3,210.0. Sterling's trade weighted index fell from 84.5 to 84.3 as the pound fell from $1.6088 to $1.6065..... **Page 26**

Christian Pineau, French Foreign Minister, 1956-58; ***Lord Adrian***, Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, 1985-87....................... **Page 21**

Racing: *Master Oats can con*found the sceptics by winning the Grand National.... **Pages 38, 39, 42, 44**

Football: Everton and Crystal Palace will test Tottenham and Manchester United in the FA Cup semi-finals tomorrow ....**Page 43**

Motor racing: Michael Schumacher was one of few drivers to avoid mishaps in practice for the Argentine Grand Prix in Buenos Aires......................**Page 44**

Tulip time: *Imagine a silent,* fume-free car which would carry two people in comfort *and could be abandoned* when not needed. It's here and it's called the Tulip

MAGAZINE

Simon Schama: Ben Macintyre meets the British historian who has turned his gaze on the relationship between *people and the natural* world.......................... **Page 10**

Cult TV: In the first of a four-part series, The Vulture selects numbers 76-100 of the top television programmes of our time .... **Page 17**

Interstellar star: Sigourney Weaver explains why she is a natural to play the torture victim in *Death and the Maiden*...... **Page 22**

Question time: Robert Crampton tries to understand the public persona of Stephen Hawking........ **Page 27**

Men's fashion: Forty-four pages of glamorous and garish looks to liven up the summer .... **Page 33**

WEEKEND

Cover story: Don't just place your bets — spread them. Peter Barnard explains how to increase your chances of winning using the newest techniques............. **Pages 1, 3**

Chocs away: *Easter* eggs tried and tasted......... **Page 11**

Life of Grimes: The young Canadian tenor *Ben Heppner* prepares for one of the biggest nights of his career — *his portrayal of Peter Grimes tonight*............ **Page 5**

Travel: Weekend breaks in France or Belgium made easy using the speedy, stylish Eurostar service; a hike *across Scotland*; the brash delights of Nevada; plus Easter travel tips.................................. **Pages 16-21**

VISION

A-Z of Wagner: Wagnermania takes off on Channel Four .... **Page 2**

Sound on film: *Directors* and composers turn music into drama .... **Page 3**

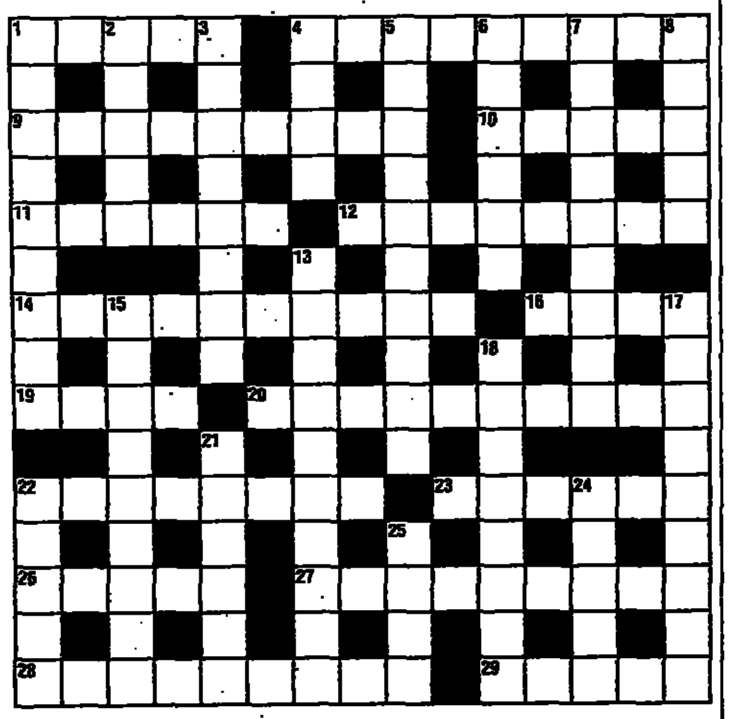
Garbo and Gable: The pick of the week's films.......... **Page 4**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,824

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



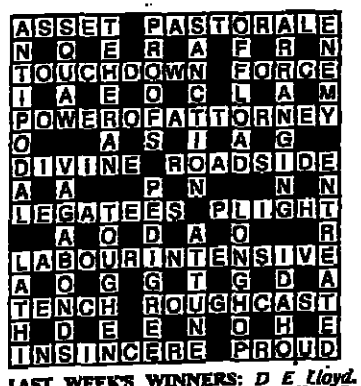
ACROSS

- 1 Call six spades for a start — and get it (5)
- 4 Rank, number and name borne by one of the first pilots (9)
- 9 Squeak and hang up (5,4)
- 10 Bulb could be lit up (5)
- 11 To get one's goat, chased the ruminant around (6)
- 12 President, sick and old, is sacked (8)
- 14 Berlin is celebrating (2,3,5)
- 16 Bound to have ended level (4)
- 19 Gathering notes (4)
- 20 Perhaps shares in a robe (10)
- 22 Completely pulverised, I got hurt (8)
- 23 Hairdresser produces bushy growth with no line (6)
- 26 Anger about little black book (5)
- 27 *Plenty of hair massed in a ball* (9)
- 28 Dictionary therefore includes Isaac's son right in the middle (9)
- 29 Designed to be a fast vessel (1-4)

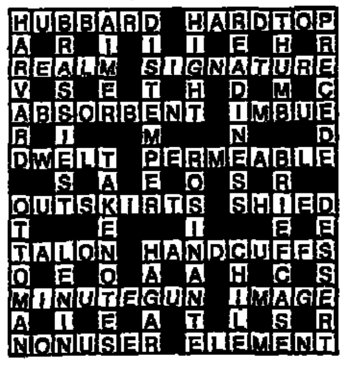
DOWN

- 1 Spiteful lies about state taking another's place (9)
- 2 Scoff second helping of cereal (5)
- 3 Dumps a song (3,5)
- 4 25 laid up (4)
- 5 Surely not on good terms all the time (4,1,5)
- 6 'Move briskly,' deserter will say (6)
- 7 Explosive set on fire (9)
- 8 Unenthusiastic, out of step, I dissociated myself (5)
- 13 Gaining currency, after getting up completely uncertain (2,2,3,3)
- 15 Badly run battle — it's covered by the record (9)
- 17 Mistake in locking mechanism in nuclear weapon (9)
- 18 Cockney held game up to get the range right (8)
- 21 Key people in charge put up the pictures (6)
- 22 Circulate gold coin (5)
- 24 Swindle cake firm (5)
- 25 Second thoughts about American pet (4)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,818



Solution to Puzzle No 19,823



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *D E Lloyd, Farnborough, Hampshire; H Whicker, Wimborne, Dorset; H E Bell, Reading, Berkshire; A R Light, Totton, Hampshire; D Russell, London.*

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Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
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Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises: 5.22 am — Sun sets: 7.45 pm

Moon sets 2.37 am — Moon rises 11.53 am

First quarter today

London 7.45 pm to 6.19 am
Bristol 8.54 pm to 6.29 am
Edinburgh 8.04 pm to 6.24 am
Manchester 7.56 pm to 6.25 am
Penzance 8.04 pm to 6.43 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises: 6.19 am — Sun sets: 7.47 pm

Moon sets 3.11 am — Moon rises 12.56 pm

Full moon April 15

London 7.47 pm to 6.17 am
Bristol 7.56 pm to 6.27 am
Edinburgh 8.06 pm to 6.22 am
Manchester 7.58 pm to 6.22 am
Penzance 8.06 pm to 6.41 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6.33	5.96	6.53	5.85
Aberdeen	6.30	3.36	7.10	3.24
Avonmouth	11.42	9.81	-	-
Belfast	4.17	3.12	4.56	2.84
Cardiff	11.32	9.39	11.56	9.41
Devonport	10.31	4.22	10.58	4.33
Dover	3.43	5.26	4.34	5.15
Dublin	5.06	3.29	5.58	3.17
Falmouth	10.21	3.72	11.05	3.95
Glasgow	5.46	4.11	6.13	3.61
Harwich	4.24	3.27	4.39	3.16
Holyhead	3.16	4.37	4.07	4.15
Hull	11.01	5.81	11.55	5.49
Ilfracombe	10.52	6.54	11.21	6.54
King's Lynn	11.21	4.58	-	-
Leith	7.40	4.23	8.27	4.19
Liverpool	3.55	7.28	4.37	7.03
Lowestoft	2.50	2.04	2.51	2.05
Margate	4.40	3.86	5.07	3.82
Milford Haven	11.14	5.34	11.42	5.07
Newquay	10.27	4.75	11.14	4.79
Oban	10.49	2.73	11.00	2.86
Penzance	9.49	4.09	10.27	4.11
Portland	10.53	1.25	11.10	1.39
Portsmouth	3.54	3.85	4.42	3.82
Shoreham	3.33	4.75	4.29	4.65
Southampton	3.33	3.74	4.20	3.77
Swansea	11.19	7.00	11.54	7.00
Tees	8.57	4.21	9.35	4.09
Wlton-on-Nze	4.24	3.43	4.45	3.41

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Great Malvern, Hereford and Worcester, 21C (70F); lowest day max: Sella Ness, Shetland, 8C (46F); highest rainfall: Lerwick, Shetland, 0.21in; highest sunshine, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, 10.2hr

☐ **General:** Shetland will be sunny for a while, but the weather will turn more cloudy and there should be a little rain later in the evening.

The rest of the United Kingdom is expected to have a dry and pleasant day. It is likely to be bright and most places should have plenty of sunshine.

It will be frosty nearly everywhere early on and in eastern England and eastern Scotland. It will be considerably cooler, especially near the coasts. Northern and Western districts will have temperatures much the same as Friday's.

☐ **London, Central N, SE England, E Midlands:** dry and bright with plenty of sunshine. Wind light north or northeasterly. Max 14C (57F).

☐ **E Anglia, NE, E England:** dry. Some sunshine. Wind moderate north or northeasterly. Max 11C (52F).

☐ **Central S, SW, NW England, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Wales, Lake District, Isle of Man:** dry and mainly sunny. Wind light easterly. Max 15C (59F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney:** dry with a lot of sunshine. Wind light northwesterly. Max 10C (50F).

☐ **SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry and mostly sunny. Wind light southeasterly. Max 13C (55F).

☐ **Shetland:** early sunshine will give way to cloud later in the day. There will be showers towards nightfall. Wind moderate northwesterly. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Outlook:** most places will be dry, bright and fairly warm, but northern areas may have occasional showers which should soon pass.

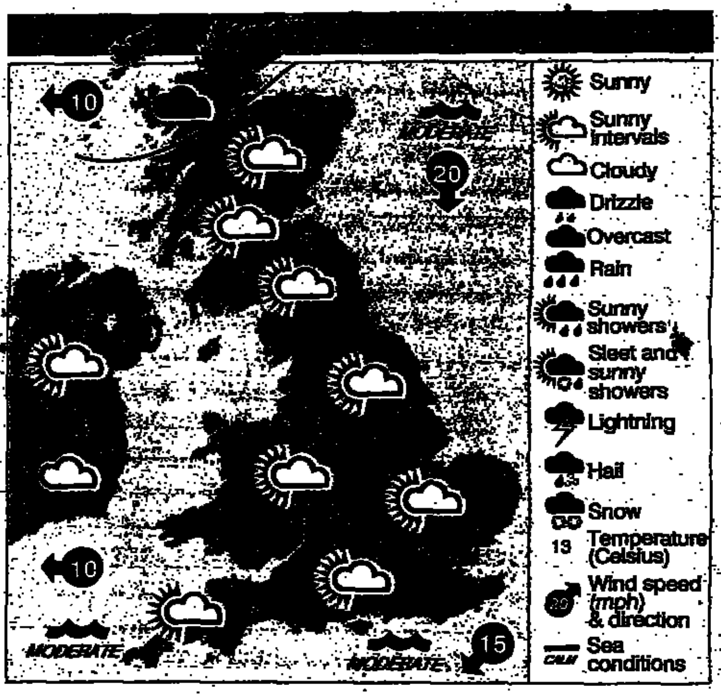
24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	4.5	-	17	63	b
Anglesey	8.3	0.06	14	57	s
Aspatria	5.0	0.01	12	54	s
Aviemore	2.9	-	13	55	c
Belfast	3.1	-	15	59	b
Birmingham	6.9	-	18	64	s
Bognor R	0.9	-	16	61	c
Bournem'th	1.4	-	18	64	b
Bristol	X				
Buxton	8.7	-	13	55	s
Cardiff	4.0	0.04	16	61	s
Clacton	3.5	-	16	61	s
Cleethorpes	X				
Colwyn Bay	6.5	0.01	15	59	s
Cromer	8.3	-	13	55	s
Doncaster	9.2	-	18	64	s
Dunbar	X				
Eastbourne	1.2	-	14	57	c
Edinburgh	3.1	0.01	14	57	r
Eskdalemuir	4.7	0.02	13	55	s
Exmouth	1.3	-	16	61	b
Falmouth	X	0.01	15	59	c
Fishguard	5.2	0.02	13	55	s
Folkestone	1.8	-	14	57	b
Glasgow	0.3	-	13	55	c
Guernsey	3.0	-	15	59	fg
Hastings	0.7	-	14	57	c
Hayling I.	0.7	-	15	59	c
Herne Bay	2.3	-	16	61	b
Hove	1.8	-	13	55	b
Hunstanton	7.5	-	17	63	s
Isle of Man	X				
Jersey	-	0.02	14	57	d
Kinloss	2.3	-	14	57	c
Leeds	7.4	-	17	63	s
Lerwick	1.4	0.09	9	48	r
Leuchars	4.5	-	15	59	b
Littlehmptn	0.9	-	15	59	c
Liverpool	8.0	0.07	12	54	s
London	4.3	-	19	66	s
Lowestoft	4.9	-	16	61	s
Manchester	7.8	-	15	59	s
Margate	1.4	-	16	61	c
Morecambe	8.1	0.09	13	55	s
Newcastle	9.0	-	15	59	s
Newquay	-	-	11	52	c
Norwich	4.6	-	18	64	s
Penzance	2.5	0.02	16	61	b
Plymouth	1.3	0.01	16	61	b
Poole	0.9	-	18	64	c
Prestatyn	X	-	11	52	s
Ross-o-wye	4.7	-	19	66	s
Ryde	-	-	17	63	c
Salcombe	2.4	-	13	55	b
Sandown	0.6	-	15	59	c
Saunton Snd	3.4	-	15	59	s
Scarboro'	10.2	-	12	54	s
Scilly Isles	0.1	0.01	13	55	fg
Shanklin	-	-	16	61	c
Shrewsbury	7.0	-	17	63	s
Skegness	7.7	-	15	59	s
Southend	X	-	16	61	b
Southport	6.8	0.13	12	54	b
Southsea	0.8	-	15	59	b
Stornoway	0.2	0.09	11	52	r
Swanage	0.2	-	17	63	c
Teignmouth	3.5	-	17	63	s
Tenby	5.5	0.05	16	61	s
Torquay	3.2	-	18	64	b
Ventnor	0.4	-	15	59	c
Weymouth	0.8	-	15	59	c

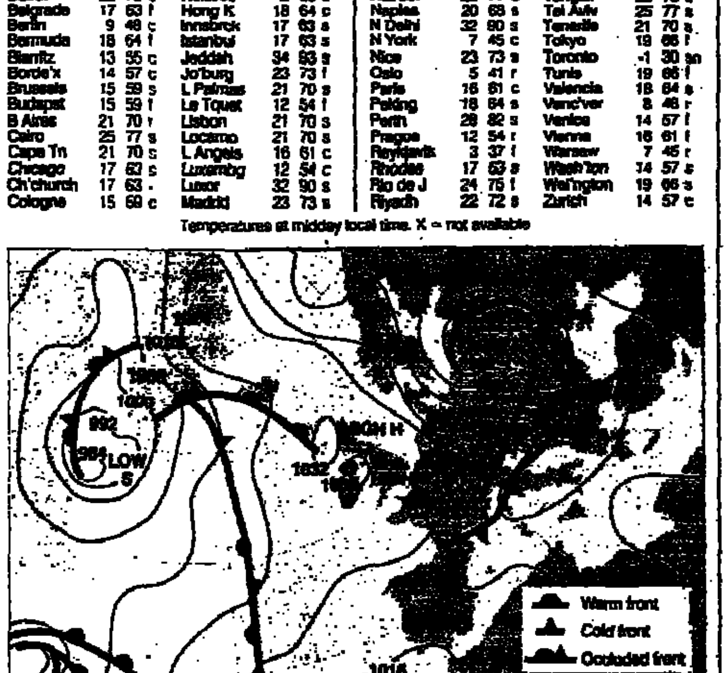
These are Thursday's figures

	C	F	
Ajaccio	17	63	s
Akrotiri	21	70	s
Alex'dria	21	70	s
Algiers	19	66	f
Amst'dm	12	54	f
Athens	18	64	s
Bahrain	22	72	s
Bangkok	34	93	s
Barbados	27	81	c
Barcelona	20	68	s
Beirut	22	72	s
Belgrade	17	63	f
Berlin	9	48	c
Bermuda	18	64	f
Biarritz	13	55	c
Borde'x	14	57	c
Brussels	15	59	s
Budapst	15	59	f
B Aires	21	70	r
Cairo	25	77	s
Cape Tn	21	70	s
Chicago	17	63	s
Ch'church	17	63	-
Cologne	15	59	c
C'phagn	8	46	r
Corfu	17	63	s
Dublin	12	54	c
Dubrovnik	15	59	f
Faro	23	73	s
Florence	21	70	s
Frankfurt	15	59	f
Funchal	21	70	s
Geneva	17	63	s
Gibraltar	20	68	s
Helsinki	2	36	s
Hong K	18	64	c
Innsbrck	17	63	s
Istanbul	17	63	s
Jeddah	34	93	s
Jo'burg	23	73	f
L Palmas	21	70	s
Le Touqt	12	54	f
Lisbon	21	70	s
Locarno	21	70	s
L Angels	16	61	c
Luxembg	12	54	c
Luxor	32	90	s
Madrid	23	73	s
Majorca	21	70	f
Malaga	22	72	s
Malta	14	57	r
Melb'rne	11	52	c
Mexico C	23	73	s
Miami	21	70	t
Milan	20	68	s
Montreal	-3	27	s
Moscow	6	43	s
Munich	11	52	c
Nairobi	25	77	c
Naples	20	68	s
N Delhi	32	90	s
N York	7	45	c
Nice	23	73	s
Oslo	5	41	r
Paris	16	61	c
Peking	18	64	s
Perth	28	82	s
Prague	12	54	r
Reykjavik	3	37	f
Rhodes	17	63	s
Rio de J	24	75	f
Riyadh	22	72	s
Rome	18	64	s
Salzburg	14	57	f
S F'risco	14	57	c
Santiago	27	81	s
S Paulo	26	79	c
Seoul	16	61	s
Sing'por	30	86	f
St'kholm	0	32	sn
Strasb'rg	17	63	f
Sydney	20	68	c
Tangier	23	73	s
Tel Aviv	25	77	s
Tenerife	21	70	s
Tokyo	19	66	f
Toronto	-1	30	sn
Tunis	19	66	f
Valencia	18	64	s
Vanc'ver	8	46	r
Venice	14	57	f
Vienna	16	61	f
Warsaw	7	45	r
Wash'ton	14	57	s
Wel'ngton	19	66	s
Zurich	14	57	c

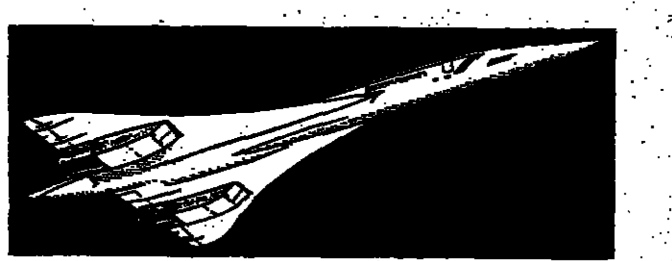
Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



☀	Sunny
	Sunny intervals
	Cloudy
	Drizzle
	Overcast
	Rain
	Sunny showers
	Sleet and sunny showers
	Lightning
	Hail
	Snow
19	Temperature (Celsius)
	Wind speed (mph) & direction
	Sea conditions



Changes to the chart above from noon: Highs H and G will amalgamate and drift slowly southeast into Germany. Low Z is expected to move away east and slowly fill. Low S will edge northwards into Greenland



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Orient-Express to Southampton on 3 May ● seven night VE Day cruise on QE2 via Gibraltar, Lisbon, Plymouth and Guernsey ● Orient-Express to Victoria £999

Orient-Express to Southampton on 16 July ● eight night Land of the Midnight Sun QE2 cruise to Stavanger via the Norwegian Fjords ● Concorde to Heathrow £2,499

Concorde to Stavanger on 24 July ● two night QE2 cruise to Southampton ● Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

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Full guide to the Grand National's runners and riders

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THE TIMES

SATURDAY APRIL 8 1995

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

Pension funds challenge British Gas pay rises

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

LEADING pension funds are to challenge the 75 per cent pay rise awarded to Cedric Brown, chief executive of British Gas, in what will amount to a test-case trial for executive pay in British companies.

Trustees of 11 funds have backed a resolution calling on British Gas to scrap its new pay and options packages for directors. The resolution, submitted to the British Gas annual meeting by Pensions & Investment Research Consultants (PIRC) on behalf of clients, calls upon the company to draw up a new remuneration scheme which is in line with recommendations from the Institute of Directors.

Five other institutions, and "hundreds and hundreds" of private shareholders, have already indicated their support. On Monday, PIRC will begin lobbying institutional shareholders in Britain and overseas to cast their proxy votes against the board.

Because they have framed an ordinary resolution, the institutions need backing from holders of just 51 per cent of shares to win.

The challenge by PIRC poses a grave threat to the credibility of the British Gas board. Two years ago, a similar campaign by PIRC forced Hanson, the industrial conglomerate, to withdraw proposals to change its articles of association.

Anne Simpson, director of PIRC, said: "I believe that if we win, it will bring about a sea-change in pay policies. If we can put down a marker, I think other companies will take note."

Details of two resolutions challenging the pay rises awarded to Mr Brown and his fellow executive directors were published yesterday, alongside British Gas's annual report.

In five pages of small type, the company details a new pay structure under which Mr Brown receives £475,000 a year. The non executive chairman, Richard Giordano, earns £450,000 for devoting 75 per cent of his time to British Gas. Executive directors will also be eligible for a long-term bonus scheme under which they could receive shares worth from 33⅓ per cent to 125 per cent of their basic pay, according to performance.

But in a detailed statement accompanying its resolution, PIRC said the remuneration proposals "do not achieve best practice" in seven key areas.

In particular, the statement says the proposals fail to penalise directors for poor performance, damage the company's standing with customers and employees, and compare pay with international oil companies, which, it says, is inappropriate.

Also, some of the rises were backdated, without shareholders being informed, while Mr Giordano's pay breaches the company's limit for non-executive directors by 50 per cent.

British Gas directors are calling on shareholders to reject the PIRC resolution, together with a second resolution from a retired Scottish medical professor, Joseph Lamb.

Professor Lamb's resolution, which needs 75 per cent approval to be carried, calls for establishment of a monitoring committee of private shareholders, trade unions, and the gas consumers' council.

Mr Giordano yesterday sought to take the heat out of the pay row by admitting that a "full and adequate" explanation was not given to shareholders. But the board remained "robust in its belief that we have taken the right decisions," he said.

Many of British Gas's 1.6 million small shareholders are expected to attend the annual meeting at the Barbican in London on May 31.

JAMES MORGAN

Test case: Cedric Brown's £475,000 pay is queried in two resolutions

Ministers pressed on dollar's plight

By Martin Barrow

AFTER helplessly watching the dollar plunge 3.5 per cent against the yen in just one week, finance ministers and central bankers are under intense pressure to act to halt the slide of the US currency and address the continued strength of the mark.

The dollar slumped to a post-war low of Y83.65 in Tokyo yesterday in spite of concerted action by the Bank of Japan. Dealers fear the slide may continue below Y80 in the short term, after falling 17 per cent since the beginning of the year. In London, the dollar closed just above Y84.

The mark ended the week at DM2.2189 against the pound and DM1.38 against the dollar, well above the levels that prompted the Bundesbank to make a surprise cut in the discount rate on March 30.

Foreign exchange volatility will be on the agenda when European finance ministers gather in Versailles for this weekend's monthly Ecofin meeting, before moving to London for the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. Yesterday Edmond Alphandéry, the French economy minister, called for a Group of Seven meeting this month to discuss ways of stabilising exchange rates along the lines of the 1980s Louvre and Plaza accords.

However, Günter Rexrodt, the German economic minister, said America alone was to blame for the dollar's weakness. "The problem is the Americans and their budget policy," he told *Bild* newspaper yesterday. "The US must now give signals for a convincing policy of stability and a reduction in state debt. Then the dollar will pick up."

In London, the pound ended at $1.6065, down .23 cents, and at DM2.2189, up .49 pfennigs. The FT-SE 100 closed at at 3,210.9, a closing high for 1995.

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WEEKEND MONEY

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Anne Ashworth

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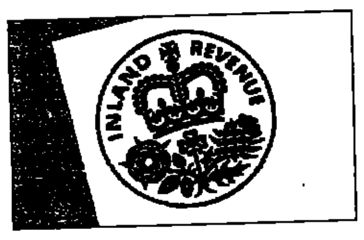
TAX



32
Making up your own tax bill

BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3210.9	(+10.0)
Yield	4.24%	
FT-SE A All share	1571.24	(+5.19)
Nikkei	15719.0	(-96.37)
New York:		
Dow Jones	4175.33	(-30.08)*
S&P Composite	504.00	(-2.06)*
Federal Funds	5¹³⁄₁₆%*	(5⅞%)
Long Bond	102²⁷⁄₃₂*	(103³⁄₃₂)
Yield	7.38%*	(7.35%)
3-mth Interbank	6⁹⁄₁₆%	(6¹⁹⁄₃₂%)
Liffe long gilt future (Jun)	103³⁄₄	(103¹⁄₂)
New York:		
$	1.6017*	(1.6075)
London:		
$	1.6027	(1.6061)
DM	2.2165	(2.2099)
FFr	7.7065	(7.6970)
SFr	1.8202	(1.8109)
Yen	134.82	(137.24)
£ Index	84.3	(84.5)
London:		
DM	1.3838*	(1.3745)
FFr	4.8060*	(4.7905)
SFr	1.1345*	(1.1270)
Yen	84.31*	(85.25)
$ Index	68.3	(88.6)

Tokyo close Yen 84.20

Brent 15-day (Jun)	$17.95	($17.90)
London close	$393.55	($394.05)

* denotes midday trading price

Bazaar start

As Marks & Spencer develops its second largest store, a 120,000 sq ft outlet in Newcastle upon Tyne, Susan Gilchrist traces the international retailing company's beginnings when Michael Marks opened his first Penny Bazaar in Leeds in 1884. Page 25

Seagram nears $7bn MCA deal

From Sean Mac Carthaigh in New York

SEAGRAM, the Canadian drinks company, hopes to secure the $7 billion acquisition of a controlling stake in Hollywood's MCA studio this weekend after agreeing to sell back almost all of its 24 per cent share in Du Pont, the US chemical group.

Seagram is understood to be negotiating the purchase of 80 per cent of MCA from the giant conglomerate Matsushita of Japan, although both parties refused to confirm talks were underway.

Du Pont paved the way for Seagram to begin formal talks with Matsushita after putting up $8.8 billion for 95 per cent of Seagram's shareholding. The transaction will take the form of a dividend payment from Du Pont to minimise Seagram's liability for capital gains tax.

Seagram's stake in Du Pont, held since 1981, generated almost 70 per cent of its annual earnings last year. Du Pont is paying $56 a share, a $9 discount to Thursday's closing price.

The company proposes to retire up to 17 per cent of its share capital, raising cash for the deal by selling the remaining shares in the open market. Further funds are likely to come from asset sales.

Edgar Woolard, chairman of Du Pont, said: "We had the opportunity to redeem 23 per cent of the shares of the company at a very big discount." The company has told analysts the deal will enhance earnings by about 10 per cent over each of the next two years.

For Seagram, founded 70 years ago and still controlled by the wealthy Bronfman family, the purchase of MCA is the clearest indication yet that its torch has passed to the next generation.

Although Edgar M Bronfman, 65, its chairman, was a major shareholder of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer in the 1960s, the current thrust into the entertainment business has been at the hands of his son, Edgar, 39, who is president — and since last June chief executive — of Seagram.

Mr Bronfman Jr worked for several years as a screenplay reader in Hollywood, produced a few unsuccessful films, and has written songs.

He recently steered Seagram to take a 14.9 per cent stake in Time Warner.

The younger man also counts among his close friends two of the most dynamic executives in the entertainment business, Barry Diller, the former chairman of Paramount, and Michael Ovitz, the head of Creative Artists Agency.

Company started with £1,500 grows to £64m

Rainford chief dials £7.5m

By Neil Bennett
Deputy Business Editor

A BUSINESSMAN from St Helens who founded an electronics company with £1,500 24 years ago became one of the richest men in Britain yesterday when the company was floated on the stock market valued at £64 million.

Barry Houghton, 47, head of Rainford Group, will still own a £30 million stake in the company after its flotation, after selling shares worth £7.5 million. Since 1971, Rainford has grown from a small component manufacturer into an international electronics group making equipment for mobile phone networks with sales of more than £50 million a year.

In 1971, Mr Houghton took the biggest gamble of his life when he left his secure marketing job with Alcan and sold his house in Oxfordshire for £4,500. He moved with his wife and one-year-old son back to St Helens, Lancashire, and used the profit from the house sale to set up Rainford.

In the early years, the business struggled to survive. Its darkest hour came in 1975 when it was almost destroyed by a £180,000 bad debt, but Mr Houghton's determination, and some understanding bankers, helped it through. Its big break came in the late Eighties when the mobile phone industry started to expand. Rainford bought a business from GPT which made cabinets for telephone base stations. Today it supplies almost all the large equipment makers, particularly Nokia.

Rainford has 720 employees today but is still a family business. Mr Houghton's wife, Sue, works part-time in administration and finance, and his son, Jason, 25, is a project manager.

When the business was founded, Mr Houghton paid himself £30 a week and even five years ago was only taking £40,000 a year. His salary has since risen to £140,000. Mr Houghton confesses he has no idea how to spend his sudden wealth. He has no longing to own racehorses or yachts, and says his existing house is all he needs. His only wish is a week's skiing in Switzerland when all the fuss over the flotation dies down.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Barry Houghton, left, and John Acornley, finance director

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TT 8.4.95

How Asprey's shares lost their shine

MELVYN MARCKUS

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Once upon a time the Asprey family, who sell baubles wrapped in purple paper to the easy come, easy go fraternity, feuded with each other. This was a harmless enough habit that conjured up images of flying jade and the swish of bejewelled daggers. But that, as they say, was then. John Asprey, chairman of Asprey, long ago decided to bet the family's fortune on Naim Attallah, Asprey's chief executive. Attallah is an author, publisher and socialite who hails from Palestine. He is reputed to wear (intentionally) bright socks that do not match. He is also reputed to wear two watches: a trait he would presumably like to encourage.

Under Attallah's direction, Asprey embarked on a major expansion programme that embraced Crown Jewellers Garrard. Mappin & Webb was acquired from Sears for £75 million in 1990, while Watches of Switzerland was purchased from Ratners for some £23 million two years later. Les Ambassadeurs, the watch and jewellery chain, was acquired for £10.8 million in 1993 when Attallah also purchased Ronald A. Lee, the antique specialists. Other businesses brought into the Asprey fold included René Boivin, the Paris jeweller, and Tomasz Starweski, the London fashion house. This strategy does not appear to have proved particularly successful. Judging from recent history, Asprey faces a crisis. Recent history went something like this.

Last June, Asprey revealed an 18 per cent rise in 1993-94's pre-tax profits to £25.4 million on sales 30 per cent higher at £187 million. This was accompanied by a dividend increase from 5.1 p to 6.05p. Asprey's Bond Street operations accounted for more than 75 per cent of profits and some 55 per cent of sales. Attallah talked of "Russian spending power" and disclosed plans to open a Mappin & Webb store in Prague, at a cost of £500,000. In his words: "Margins are under pressure. Our customer base must be widened." Attallah's total remuneration, including a £116,576 contribution to his pension fund, rose 60 per cent to £411,576. The normally cautious *Investors Chronicle* opined that the company had "not put a foot wrong" and recommended the shares, quoted at 306p, as a "buy". Earlier that year the share price had stood at 357p.

It was in September that Attallah revealed that sales in Asprey's core business had fallen dramatically. More to the point, the loss of certain major customers meant that results for the first half of 1994-95 would be "marginally profitable" at best. In his words: "Many heads of states are not spending the kind of money they used to." In one trading session, Asprey's share price plunged 110p to 200p after touching 178p. This served to reduce the company's capitalisation by £88 million to £160 million.

Some shareholders may have envied Attallah and certain co-directors their good fortune in respect of the timing of earlier share sales. Some two months before Asprey's share meltdown, on July 14, Attallah sold 54,127 shares at 310p each. These had been acquired by exercising options a few days earlier at 268p.

John Asprey and his family trust control more than 50 per cent of Asprey's equity. At around the time of share sales by Attallah and co-directors Nick Harrington and Timothy Cooper, Asprey's employee benefit fund spent some £774,110 on purchases of Asprey shares. Some 40,375 shares were acquired on July 8 at 306p with a further 209,859 shares purchased on July 14. Following a rally in the share price to 220p, the *Investors Chronicle* advised: "Long-term prospects remain good. Keep faith and buy." Unfortunately, Asprey's shares remained unloved, particularly on October 9 when they fell 11 per cent. Rumours had it that Asprey had encountered a £30 million bad debt, a £40 million stock write-off loomed and the preference dividend was in danger. Asprey denied such problems but by now the price had plunged to 135p. Within a matter of days, John Asprey pronounced that the missing billionaires had returned to Bond Street. In his words: "It changed in mid-September." This must have been pleasing news for Asprey which, it transpired, had been the buyer of the near 55,000 shares sold by Attallah in July at 310p.

In November, the *Mail on Sunday* published a Bank of Scotland internal draft memo which indicated that Asprey was in potential default of its £20 million facility. The Bank promptly declared that it was "fully supportive of, and has every confidence in, Asprey and its management." A bulletin from Bond Street stated: "Asprey is not in, nor is it in danger of, default under any of its banking arrangements. The suggestion that it faces receivership is absurd."

With Asprey's share price standing at 144p, Attallah predicted that if the share slide continued the Asprey family would take the company private. Then came revelations that John Asprey, Attallah and co-director Timothy Cooper had been the subject of an inquiry following certain allegations brought to the attention of Ernst & Young, the firm's auditors. Robin Raw, a former employee of Asprey in New York, complained about the activities of Asprey's Geneva subsidiary to at least one major investor. Raw was critical of over-reliance on a few Middle East clients and the the role played by Attallah's private companies, Namara and Al Manara which, he alleged, received commissions on Asprey's Middle East business. Ernst & Young compiled a report, dated July 16, 1992, which was presented to Asprey's board the following day. Richard Murray, the Ernst & Young partner responsible for Asprey, was present at the board meeting as were two lawyers from Macfarlanes, Asprey's City solicitors. Ernst & Young's inquiry concluded that there was no foundation to the allegations.

Mid-year results for 1994-95 duly heralded a pre-tax profit plunge from £12 million to £3 million on sales down from £87 million to £82 million. Stock rose from £127 million to £147 million. Attallah gave warning, yet again, that if the shares continued to fall, the Asprey family would buy the company back. In the event, John Asprey purchased 170,000 shares at a price of 143p.

Last month, after a further share price collapse to 68p, Asprey let it be known that second-half results were likely to be similar to the £3 million achieved for the first half. This time Attallah's message was that "no amount of pressure will force the Asprey family to sell".

Harland and Wolff blames market for losses of £16.9m

By Nicholas Watt, Ireland Correspondent

HARLAND and Wolff, the Belfast shipbuilding group, faces a bleak future after it declared a "most unsatisfactory" pre-tax loss of £16.9 million yesterday.

The company, which was once a symbol of Belfast's industrial might, blamed market conditions for forcing the shipyard to accept orders at a loss. The deficit included a loss of £7.2 million on operations for the last year and a provision of £10.8 million for losses on vessels currently under order, offset by an exceptional credit of £1.1 million.

The heaviest loss was sustained from an order to build a shuttle tanker, which is due to be delivered in August 1996. The shipyard accepted the order to ensure continuity of production, knowing it would lose about £8 million. However, the company has been able to enhance its balance sheet after resetting the terms of the £60 million interest-free unsecured loan stock which was issued at privatisation in 1989.

A spokesman for Harland and Wolff admitted that the results were disappointing, but denied that the shipyard was threatened with imminent closure. However, the company only has existing orders until the autumn of 1996. The company now believes its best chances lie in developing new projects such as the construction of floating, production, storage and offloading vessels for oil production. The shipyard is currently preparing four bids.

However, Harland and Wolff faces stiff worldwide competition, particularly from the heavily-subsidised South Korean shipbuilding industries. In their report to shareholders yesterday, Fred Olsen, chairman, and Per Nielsen, chief executive, said their inability to offer competitive financing terms was hindering the company.

They said: "We have presented logical and reasoned arguments for change to the UK financing system to place us on a level playing field ... Whilst we have achieved some very slight concessions for domestic owners, we remain significantly disadvantaged compared to most other shipbuilding nations."

Peter Robinson, the Democratic Unionist MP for East Belfast, whose constituency includes the shipyard, said the financial results made depressing reading. He called on the Government to take an active role to protect and encourage shipbuilding in the United Kingdom.

Harland and Wolff, which employed 51,000 workers in the post-war years in Belfast and at its British subsidiaries, has a workforce today of just 1,700.

Middlesex Holdings, whose chairman is Phil Edmonds, the former Middlesex and Test cricketer, is paying its first dividend since 1991. The company, which provides project financing and support services to the natural resources industries, is paying a nominal 0.05p a share dividend for 1994 after earning profits of £3.19 million before tax, against losses of £155,000 previously.

Commission seeks review of policy on competition

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

BUSINESS leaders on a new commission to examine the impact of public policy on UK industry, announced yesterday, said there was an urgent need to review the partnership between Government, and business in order to promote Britain's competitiveness.

Members of the Commission on Public Policy and British Business also emphasised that they were independent of political parties, that wealth creation was a central theme, and in particular they rebutted suggestions that they were closely allied to the Labour Party.

The commission's membership reflects a broad span of British business and includes David Sainsbury, chairman and chief executive of the supermarket group, George Simpson, Lucas's chief executive, Bob Bauman, chairman of British Aerospace, Sir Christopher Harding, chairman of Legal and General, and Bob Bischof, chairman of Boss.

It also features Lord Hollick, the Labour peer who is the group managing director of MAI, John Monks, TUC General Secretary, and business academics such as Professor Richard Layard, from the London School of Economics.

Claiming a clear recognition by industry that public policy towards business is in urgent need of review, Lord Hollick said there was a "widespread feeling that the period we have been through, where market liberalisation was the be-all and end-all of policy, has run its course".

Gerald Holtham, Director of the Institute for Public Policy Research, which will act as the commission's secretariat, said seven key areas of public policy towards business would be examined — taxation and subsidies, training and education, infrastructure, competition and corporate governance, social policy and regulation, finance and research, and innovation.

Fitzwilton sells stake in Novum to buyout

FITZWILTON, the Irish industrial holding group, is selling its 75 per cent stake in Novum, a freezer manufacturer, to a management buyout, backed by NatWest Ventures, for Ir£25.1 million. Cramwell, the buyout vehicle, will pay a total of Ir£32.9 million for the business since Novum's minority shareholders have also agreed to sell their shares. The deal is dependent on shareholders' approval at an EGM. Novum's management will take a 37.7 per cent stake in Cramwell.

Tony O'Reilly, chairman of Fitzwilton, said: "This is a deal in which everybody wins. Fitzwilton has received an attractive price for the business and Novum's management, backed by NatWest Ventures, has been given a great opportunity to continue Novum's development." The purchase price includes a deferred Ir£1.5 million element, which will be paid if Novum makes an operating profit of Ir£3.6 million in 1995. The sale increases Fitzwilton net assets by Ir£12.7 million to Ir£36 million.

OIS profits collapse

SHARES in OIS International Inspection dropped from 24p to 21p yesterday as the pipeline inspection group reported a collapse in profits from £2.2 million to £144,000 in the year to December. OIS issued a profits warning last July after the loss of a large contract and increased competition. The company is cutting the dividend from 2.1p to 0.6p for the year, but the payout will be uncovered by earnings per share, which fell from 5.4p to 0.2p in 1994.

Ben Bailey advances

BEN BAILEY, the Yorkshire housebuilder, enjoyed a 28 per cent surge in profits last year to £449,000, in spite of suffering from a slowdown in the housing market in the second half of the year. The company increased its number of housing sales during the year by 17 per cent to 318, leading to a 35 per cent gain in turnover to £22.4 million. The company is paying a final dividend of 0.75p, payable on June 8, making 1.05p for the year, the same as it paid in the 18 months to December.

SB buys R&D complex

SMITHKLINE BEECHAM, the pharmaceuticals group, is paying $210 million for a research and development complex in Pennsylvania, put up for auction by Eastman Kodak. The complex includes nearly one million sq ft of laboratories, offices and support facilities. It will be SB's third primary R&D site, along with Upper Merion, Pennsylvania, and Harlow, Essex. Initially, the company expects to use the site for drug R&D activities.

Roskel in £2.5m buy

ROSKEL, the ceiling and partitioning company, is acquiring Lamdec, a privately owned distributor of laminates and chipboard, for a total of £2.5 million. The acquisition will be funded from the proceeds of a rights issue of one new share for every three held at 92p each, raising £2 million. Roskel reported 1994 profits of £1.67 million before tax, compared with losses of £699,000 in 1993. The total dividend is unchanged at 4.30p a share, with an unchanged final of 3p.

Derek Harris dies, aged 66

DEREK HARRIS, former industrial editor of *The Times* and a senior founding journalist of *The Times* Business News, died on Thursday night aged 66. One of the most popular, loyal and hard-working of journalists, he retired formally in 1990, but had continued to edit Your Own Business, *The Times*'s small business feature, until illness interrupted him in November.

Having first joined what was then the Kemsley newspaper empire in Manchester in 1951, Derek Harris came to London, later joining *The Times* Business News in 1967 as assistant editor production. He went on to earn respect in a variety of roles, always modest and earning friends. Many remain at *The Times*.

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Belgium Fr	48.40	44.10
Canada $	2.340	2.180
Cyprus Cyp£	0.745	0.690
Denmark Kr	9.32	8.52
Finland Mkk	7.41	6.76
France Fr	8.14	7.49
Germany Dm	2.36	2.15
Greece Dr	377.00	352.00
Hong Kong $	13.07	12.07
Ireland Pt	1.05	0.97
Israel	5.2468	4.4966
Italy Lira	2845.00	2690.00
Japan Yen	149.50	133.50
Malta	0.597	0.542
Netherlds Gld	2.626	2.396
Norway Kr	10.50	9.70
Portugal Esc	245.00	226.50
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.36
Spain Pta	208.00	195.00
Sweden Kr	12.46	11.66
Switzerland Fr	1.94	1.76
Turkey Lira	refer	65074.0
USA $	1.704	1.574

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

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ICAEW/CIMA: Roger Lawson and Tom Glancy

Drawing a line under accountants' long division

Partners in power

Two of the leading accountancy bodies are, at last, ready to unite. **Jon Ashworth** meets the men with a mission to merge

An Englishman and an Irishman appear to have made history. For more than a quarter of a century, members of the all-important accountancy lobby have been trying to pool their scattered resources. They moved a step closer to their goal this week, when two of the dominant institutes announced plans to merge, creating a 140,000-strong organisation. There were smiles all round for the two serving presidents: Roger Lawson and Tom Glancy.

Talk of a merger strikes at the heart of the accountancy profession. On one side are the all-pervasive chartered accountants, under the wing of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, commonly referred to as the English institute. On the other is the small but influential brigade falling under the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). Historically, the English institute represented accountants in practice — managers and partners in the big accountancy firms. The 35,000 CIMA members fall on the other side of the fence, working in the "real world" of industry and commerce.

Times have changed, and, today, more than half the English institute's 105,000 members work in business. Some 90,000 members of the proposed new body would work in industry, and their collective voice could carry great clout in Whitehall and Brussels. The enlarged, as yet unnamed, institute would be governed by a single council and have two arms, one for business, one for practice, each dealing with training and membership issues. Members would be designated Chartered Accountant and Chartered Management Accountant respectively. The proposed merger is expected to be put to the vote next year.

The two protagonists will, of course, be long gone, praying from the sidelines that all goes to plan. Lawson, 49, returns to his "other" job at 3i in June after the customary year as president of the English institute. Glancy, 50, returns to running his DIY business in Dublin, happy to have set the ball rolling. "The last thing either of us wants is a failure at this stage," he chirps in rapid-fire Irish brogue. "We will move heaven and earth not to have that. We have to bring our members with us. They need to vote at the end, not me." Lawson agrees: "I welcome these proposals, I support these proposals, I believe in these proposals. I am handing on something to my successors that I believe is extremely do-able."

Both men rose to the dizzy heights of accountancy through very different routes. Glancy was born in Cork and spent part of his childhood in Belfast before settling in Dublin.

Lawson spent his childhood years shuttling between England and Japan, where his father had a company importing commodities for the American occupation forces. Glancy worked in an explosives factory after leaving school, before qualifying as a management accountant in 1972. Lawson qualified with the Liverpool firm of Wilson, De Zouche and Mackenzie, where his godfather was senior partner, and signed up with ICFC, forerunner to 3i, in 1968. He rose through the ranks to take charge of 3i's subsidiaries and ventures outside Europe, a job that saw him spending about 100 nights a year abroad during the late Eighties.

Glancy became caught up in a drive to raise CIMA's profile — "There was a feeling in Dublin that CIMA needed to be revitalised" — and slowly ascended through the organisation, serving as vice-president for the standard two years before taking up the cudgels as president in June 1994. "I step down on the 10th of June — and I'm counting," he laughs. "It makes huge demands on you, but I'll look back on my term with great satisfaction and pride. You couldn't do it for two years."

His itinerary in the last few days bears him out. After spending the weekend in Cork, Glancy was up at 4.30am on Tuesday to catch the flight to London. Meetings and dinners led on to a press conference on Wednesday, where details of the proposed merger were unveiled. He rose at 6.30am on Thursday to catch the train to Paris, before flying on to meet his wife in Manchester yesterday, and returning to Dublin today. "They're not all like that," he says. "There is a huge programme of stuff they keep you busy with all the time."

Lawson leads an equally hectic life, moving from dinners to ceremonies, canvassing members across the UK, and somehow finding time for his 3i duties in between. He holds various directorships and has spent the customary presidential year on the Takeover Panel, an experience he describes as fascinating.

Lawson's quirky advertising drive maintained: 'It's easier to sleep with a chartered accountant'

Lawson has been anxious to reinforce the idea that accountants are trustworthy. His rather quirky method was to launch a £230,000 advertising campaign, built on the theme: "It's easier to sleep with a chartered accountant." "It was bit tongue-in-cheek but it has been very successful," he admits, breaking into his manic, high-pitched laugh.

The men share more than a desire to unite their profession. They are family men, enjoying home life when their punishing schedules allow. Both have teenage daughters. Both play golf. Home, for Glancy, is Loughlinstown outside Dublin, where he lives with his wife, Patricia, and daughters Wendy, 21, Alison, 19, and Jennifer, 14. The house overlooks school playing fields and is sandwiched between the sea and the mountains. There is a dog, Holly, a golden cocker-spaniel.

Lawson lives in Clapham, south London, with his wife, Jeni, and daughters "SJ", 17, Annabel, 15, and Louise, 13. They enjoy family beach holidays in Portugal, where Lawson is known for his karaoke renditions of *Great Balls of Fire*. A cat called Kipper awaits their return. Although the similarity between the families is striking, there has been little time for socialising. Even that long-planned round of golf has had to wait. "He's a golfer, but as yet I haven't put him to the test," says Lawson.

They exchange suitably flattering asides. "Tom is full of integrity," says Lawson. "He has a vision of bringing together the accounting bodies, a vision I share and endorse." Glancy agrees. "The chemistry between us is very good. There is a great spirit of trust between us, and we've got on well in the last couple of months. I'm a very straight individual and I like to be dealt with straight."

Months of furious lobbying lie ahead. No one has yet succeeded in achieving a merger between any British accountancy institutes, and there are no guarantees that Lawson and Glancy will succeed where others have failed. Both insist that the groundswell of support is there. "The structure is right," says Glancy. "I am confident that I am doing what our members want me to do." Lawson is adamant that this is the correct way forward. "The public will be less confused; we will be able to speak with far greater authority; and longer term, there will hopefully be less duplication and waste."

Their efforts, if successful, will create a force to be reckoned with. There are about 300,000 qualified accountants in Europe, and two thirds of them are in the UK and Ireland. The enlarged institute will represent 70 per cent of the UK profession and half the European network.

There is also scope for other UK institutes to join in. The Scots jealously guard their accounting heritage. The Chartered Association of Certified Accountants objected to the most recent set of proposals aimed at uniting the six professional bodies. The door has purposefully been left open. As Lawson said in a speech this week: "We see this as an important step on a longer road and we would welcome other travellers."

Leading from the front: Roger Lawson, left, and Tom Glancy face months of furious lobbying

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Susan Gilchrist traces M&S's bazaar beginnings

In for a penny — in for seven billion pounds

Marks & Spencer is busy developing, in Northumberland Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, what will be its second largest store in the world. When it is completed next year, the store will occupy 120,000 sq ft and incorporate a 30,000 sq ft food hall.

But just a few streets away in Grainger Market is a very different version of M&S. There, the group still runs two adjacent stalls in the market, which are the sole surviving remnants of Michael Marks's early Penny Bazaars, from which today's M&S was founded. The stalls still do a brisk trade selling small ticket items such as hosiery as well as soiled and damaged stock. The Grainger Market site celebrates its centenary next week and the group is launching a host of celebrations to mark the occasion.

Few companies would bother with such sentimentality, but M&S has always been adept at keeping one eye on the future and one on its past. Sir Richard Greenbury, its chairman, believes that the business today — which has some 700 stores across 30 countries — is not that dissimilar to Marks's original idea.

Michael Marks opened his first Penny Bazaar in Kirkgate Open Market in Leeds in 1884 after fleeing from the Russian pogroms in Poland. Unable to speak English, he put up a sign with the now famous motto "Don't ask the price it's a penny." The goods were simple enough — hatpins, buttons, handkerchiefs, mending wool, soaps, candles, cups, saucers and baking tins — but his fixed price list generated plenty of interest.

It was a world away from the traditional haggling of the market but it appealed to his working-class customers, who liked the combination of open display, easy inspection and a fixed price list. It forced Marks to search for a greater variety of goods which could be sold at that price and also concentrated his mind on driving up turnover to compensate for the lower margins. It is a strategy with which Sir Richard, the architect of M&S's current Outstanding Value Campaign, must sympathise.

The Leeds open market traded on only two days a week, and Marks needed other outlets from which to trade during the rest of the week. He opened stalls in Castleford and Wakefield and added a second trestle to his stall in Leeds. Further stalls were then opened in Wigan, Bolton and Manchester and the business expanded into covered market halls, which offered more space, and traded throughout the week.

On April 11, 1895, he opened his stall in Grainger Market and by 1900 he had 36 branches, of which 24 were in market halls and 12 were shops. His retail empire stretched from the North of England to Bath and London in the South.

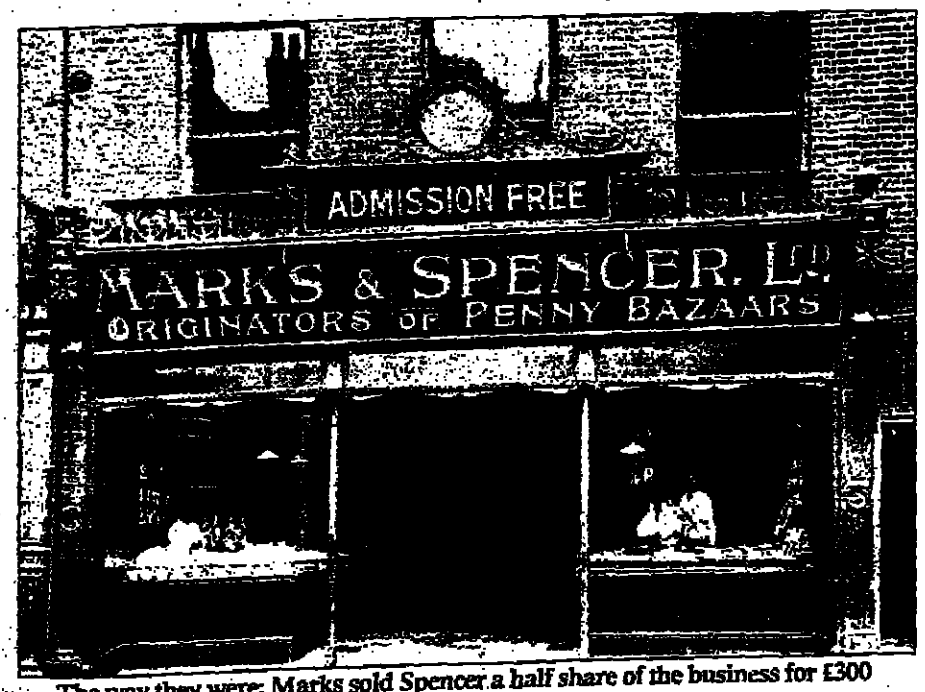
As the business expanded, Marks recognised he needed help in running it. Isaac Dewhirst, a local wholesaler, had been his first business contact and he approached him. But Dewhirst's own business was thriving so he suggested Thomas Spencer, his cashier. In 1894, Marks offered Spencer a half share in his business for £300 and one of the most famous business partnerships in British history was born.

The first shops were radical for their times. Unlike most shopkeepers, Marks allowed his customers to browse among the goods as they would in a market rather than conduct business over a counter. They were the first self-service outlets of their day.

As the partnership grew, they decided to cut out the middleman and bought much of their stock directly from manufacturers. Again, this was very different from traditional practice and it was to become a key element in future M&S strategy. Even today the group prides itself on having unusually close relationships with its suppliers, which it can use to its competitive advantage.

Today's M&S also has a far closer relationship with its staff than many high street retailers. It is not unusual to find people who have spent all their working life with the group. This is rare in an industry where staff longevity can typically be measured in months rather than years.

M&S says this philosophy can be traced back to Marks himself, who, unlike most employers of the day, was indulgent towards his staff. He put up wooden platforms for his female assistants to stand on in the market halls so their feet would not get cold, provided gas rings for them to heat their lunch and gave them Christmas presents. From such small beginnings, great things can grow. A hundred years on, M&S is Britain's most profitable retailer with sales of almost £7 billion. Even Marks himself would be surprised.



The way they were: Marks sold Spencer a half share of the business for £300

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First name ______
Address ______
______ Postcode ______
Home Tel No. ______ T/F3
Post to: Bank of Scotland, Card Services, FREEPOST, Marketing Dept., 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 0AA.

PLEASE NOTE. To apply for credit facilities you must be aged 18 or over. APR correct at time of going to press, but subject to variation - full details and a written Consumer Credit quotation are available from: Bank of Scotland, Marketing Department, P.O. Box No. 12, Uberior House, 61 Grassmarket, Edinburgh EH1 2JF. If you are not a Bank of Scotland Cardholder you may still register for the Prize Draw by writing to Bank of Scotland at the address shown before the end of the relevant month. Prize Draw rules and full details of Mortgage Bonus Points are available from Card Services at the address shown. For all mortgages we require security over the property and an acceptable life assurance policy.
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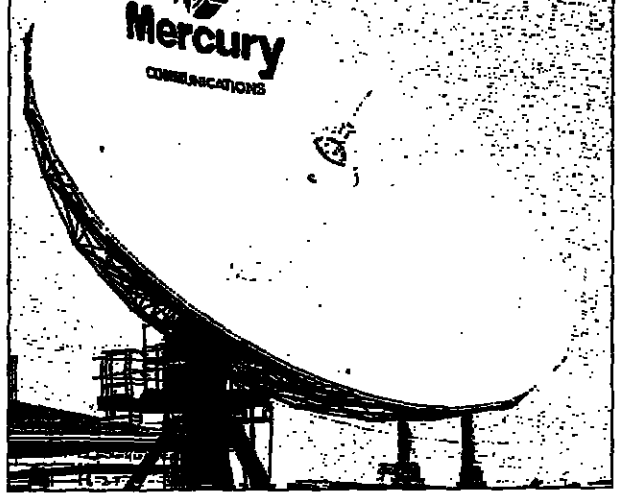
STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Speculators gamble on C&W becoming bid target

CITY investors will no doubt be investing heavily on today's Grand National but they have also been amusing themselves with a flutter on **Cable and Wireless**.

This week shares of the telecomunications group, which includes Mercury, have effortlessly overcome a number of hurdles with the help of a resurgence of speculative buying. Yesterday the price jumped 10p to 413p in heavy turnover which saw almost 8 million shares change hands. For much of this year the group has struggled to breach the £4 level weighed down by the cutbacks at Mercury and the volatility of the Hong Kong stock markets where the group has extensive interests via its controlling stake in Hong Kong Telecom.



The Mercury business is attracting interest in C&W

A number of theories are doing the rounds including an all-out bid from BT, which would then sell the Mercury division in order to prevent attracting the attention of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. There is also talk that American Telephone and Telegraph may want to take a stake in Mercury, or even bid for the entire business leaving the way clear for BT to mop up the rest.

Either way, City speculators take the view that Cable and Wirless, *currently capitalised* at almost £9 billion, is looking *exceedingly vulnerable*.

The rest of the equity market *shrugged off the dreadful* showing by the Conservatives *in the Scottish local elections* with most investors taking the *view that the result was not* entirely unexpected. Prices recovered from *a cautious start* and were soon squeezed higher as market-makers struggled to cover short positions.

In the event, prices saw early gains halved, partly reflecting an opening fall of almost 30 points in the Dow Jones industrial average on Wall Street where inflationary worries are growing again. The FT-SE 100 index touched 3,221.8 before ending up 10.0 at a year's high of 3,210.9, a rise on the week of 73 points.

Once again buying support was directed at the quality end, especially shares with an international flavour such as **BAT Industries**, up 4p at 453p, **RTZ**, 5p at 816p, and **Glaxo**, 4p at 735p. But volume fell short of that achieved earlier in the week with 644 million shares traded.

Institutional support was again directed at **British Gas**, with the price firming 3p to 299p as the group published its annual report. In the report, Richard Giordano, the chairman, admits that the issue of directors pay, which attracted a storm of protest recently, had been badly handled by the group. He said the manner in which the changes were disclosed caused confusion and did not contain a full and adequate explanation. But *he said the awards were* justified. It also emerged that two *resolutions from shareholders* criticising the directors are included on the agenda of May's AGM.

The stock market is a fickle place. Takeover favourite **Kleinwort Benson** dropped 18p to 643p after it emerged that Sir Nicholas Redmayne, a director, had sold 100,000 shares. Dealers took this as a sign that a bid is no longer likely to be forthcoming.

British Airways firmed 2½p to 410p after reaching an out-of-court settlement with Richard Branson's Virgin about allegations of dirty tricks. Both sides were last night claiming victory but Virgin will continue to pursue its anti-trust case against BA through the US courts.

Cadbury Schweppes, the soft drinks and confectionary *group, rose 6p to 447p. Earlier* this week the share price was *unsettled by talk that David* Wellings, the chief executive, *had been selling part of his* holding in the company. But it *has emerged that the sale of* 11,086 shares at 454p on March 27, was part of a bed and breakfast exercise. They were later bought back at 454¼p.

Racal Electronics stood out with a rise of 5p to *247p* as Credit Lyonnais Laing, the *broker, continued to recommend the shares.* Laing says *the group's data operations* are gathering pace and is excited about prospects for its network division, which includes Camelot and the National Lottery.

Smith New Court, the broker, is said to have taken a shine to **WPP**, the advertising agency, although the price marked time at 110p. Its J. Walter Thompson subsidiary is said to be making good progress.

Norish, the Irish food distribution group, fell 8p to 68p after plunging into the red last year with pre-tax losses of Ir£760,000 compared with a profit the previous year of Ir£2.66 million. The loss was struck after restructuring charges of Ir£2.33 million. The group will not be paying a final dividend and added trading remains difficult.

AAH fell 6p to 437p, stretching the deficit of the past two days to 11p. That compares with the 420p being offered by GEHE, the German pharmaceutical distributor.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Gilts opened cautiously in thin trading with investors awaiting the US employment data.

But the headline figure proved better than anticipated paving the way for the bond market to make further headway. However, the best gains wee not always held, with profit-takers moving in as overseas bond markets turned easier before the weekend break.

In the futures pit, the June *series of the Long Gilt touched* £104¼ before seeing its lead cut to £¼ at £103¾ by the close on 48,000 contracts.

Index-linked issues enjoyed further support with the Bank of England taking advantage and issuing a further two tranches of stock. These included £150 million of index-linked 2½ per cent 2009 and £150 million of index-linked 2½ per cent 2020.

Among conventional issues benchmark Treasury 8 per cent 2013 rose £$^{5}/_{16}$ to £96$^{15}/_{30}$, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £$^{3}/_{16}$ better at £98$^{29}/_{32}$.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Wall Street shares were lower at midday, under pressure from a weaker dollar and a sell-off in the bond market. The Dow Jones industrial average was down 30.08 points at 4,175.33.

Tesco rose 6½p *to 276p* Cazenove, the broker, urged clients to switch out of rival J. Sainsbury, down 2p at 434p. Full year *figures from Tesco next week should make pleaseant reading* with pre-tax profits set to grow from £528.4 million to £600 *million together with a 10 per cent rise in the dividend to 8.5p.*

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
British Gas	298½p	+12p	Stakebuilding speculation
Highland Distilleries	351p	-32p	Disappointing figures
ShareLink	*235p*	+28p	*Bid from Charles Schwab*
Govett	298p	+39p	Fund management arm for sale
VHE Holdings	79p	-11p	Profits warning
GRT	285p	+28p	Merger with Badgerline
Nobo Group	143p	-71p	Profits warning
Johnson Matthey	*553p*	+29p	*Strong platinum price*
Scottish Television	452p	+15p	Cross-holdings reform

MAJOR INDICES

New York (*midday*):		
Dow Jones	4175.33	(-30.08)
S&P Composite	504.00	(-2.08)
Tokyo:		
Nikkei Average	15719.50	(-96.37)
Hong Kong:		
Hang Seng	8470.28	(+52.10)
Amsterdam:		
EOE Index	403.94	(+3.72)
Sydney:		
AO	1983.4	(+3.1)
Frankfurt:		
DAX	1981.88	(+2.61)
Singapore:		
Straits	2073.75	(-21.32)
Brussels:		
General	7110.77	(+75.27)
Paris:		
CAC-40	1900.36	(+10.20)
Zurich:		
SKA Gen	584.60	(+1.70)
London:		
FT 30	2454.1	(+7.0)
FT 100	3210.9	(+10.0)
FT-SE Mid 250	3497.6	(+15.2)
FT-SE-A 350	1592.9	(+5.4)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1281.80	(+4.80)
FT A All-Share	1571.24	(+5.19)
FT Non Financials	1695.36	(+6.01)
FT Fixed Interest	111.15	(+0.03)
FT Govt Secs	92.24	(+0.18)
Bargains	24048	
SEAQ Volume	644.6m	
USM (Datastrm)	149.90	(+0.14)
US$	1.6065	(-0.0023)
German Mark	2.2189	(+0.0049)
Exchange Index	84.3	(-0.2)
Bank of England official close (4pm)		
£:ECU	1.1944	
£:SDR	1.0227	
RPI	146.9 Feb (3.4%) Jan 1987=100	

RECENT ISSUES

Albright & Wilson (150)	171	+5½
Beale	171	...
Brit Aerospace Uts	149	...
Colleagues	154	+4
Dailywin (128)	130	...
Datrontech (130)	147	+11
Expro Intl (175)	174	...
F & C (100)	100	...
Geared Inc Inv (100)	99	...
Golden Rose Cms (135)	115	...
HTR Inc/Gth Split (100)	102	...
Natl Power (p/p) (476)	168	-5
PTS Group (90)	92	...
PowerGen (p/p) (512)	*185*	-3
Schroder Inc Gth Uts	528	...
Scot Oriental Sml (100)	96	...
Superframe Grp (50)	40	...
Superframe Wts	6	...
Zotefoams (145)	176	+2

RIGHTS ISSUES

Arcon Intl n/p (Ir20p)	1	...
Beauford n/p (28)	1	...
Guinness Peat n/p (20)	5	...
Horace Sml App n/p (90)	37	...
Marley n/p (112)	14	-½
TBI n/p (35)	2	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Hozelock	279p (+9p)
Powell Duffryn	505p (+11p)
Rothmans	501p (+13p)
Azlan	151p (+35p)
Molins	*530p (+10p)*
FALLS:	
Kleinwort Benson	*643p (-18p)*
Norbain	347p (-8p)
Delta	484p (-9p)
AAH	437p (-6p)

Closing Prices Page 35

TEMPUS

Gassing about Hanson

IT MUST be spring: tulips are flowering, the FT-SE index is on the rise and the market is *buzzing* with Hanson bid rumours. The gossips assume that Hanson, flush with cash from the *spin-off of US Industries*, will bid. Only the target's identity is unknown and the obvious choice, a *regional electricity company*, is discounted owing to the regulator's review of pricing. Hence the choice of *British* Gas, another utility that churns out cash and could provide a stable stream of earnings for Hanson, which is now highly exposed to cyclical commodities such as coal, forest products, chemicals and building materials.

Capitalised at £12 billion, Hanson would be *taking on a company* roughly its own size and some analysts reckon that anything more than a *£2 billion cash bid*, with a substantial good will write-off, would send gearing over 100 per cent. The proposition is not entirely silly, since a break-up valued at £16-£17 billion would allow Hanson to keep the cash generative Transco while *selling exploration* and production, trading, global gas and property.

E&P alone might be worth £6 *billion but* Hanson would be hard-pressed to reduce the cost of a bid rapidly. Gas is pumping out £2 *billion* in cash after tax, interest and dividends but Transco needs to service a capex *programme of about* £1 billion a year and cutbacks might incur the regulator's wrath.

There are other *asset-rich* targets that might be tempting: food manufacturers and retailers or even a badly *run property* company. Hanson is fun for investors, not so much because of what it does but what it might do and the action and ideas the threat of a bid can generate in some boardrooms.

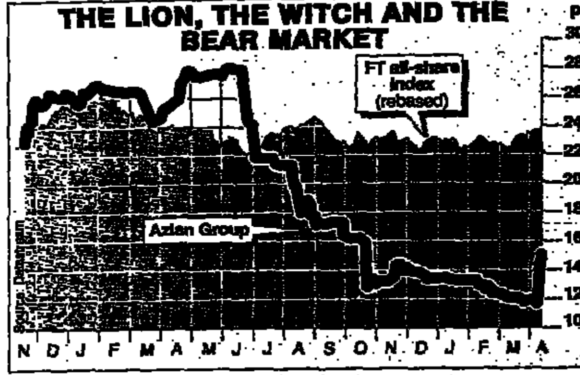
Azlan

WHAT a difference a deal makes. Azlan, the computer products distributor, has had a miserable time since it came to the market in November 1993. Until yesterday, *its shares had fallen by half* after profits for the first half of last year slumped by 43 per cent. After that the company was rapidly thrown on the junk heap of other new issues that have failed to live up to their backers' expectations.

The shares rebounded 30 per cent yesterday on the news that the company has signed a distribution agreement with IBM networking systems. Nobody ever got fired by buying IBM, or doing business with it either it seems.

Azlan's shares had fallen so low it needed only a glimmer of good news to *prompt* a rebound. But the deal Azlan has signed is certainly *impressive. It will* distribute IBM's computer connectors *throughout* Europe. Azlan will now have *a job on its hands to manage* the additional volumes *through its sales networks* and post-sales support, although the company already handles products from many of IBM's rivals, such as Digital.

The rebound in the shares shows there is value to be found among new issue flops. Many were not bad companies simply because their profits sagged in the first year on the market; more that they were thrust there too early by over-eager venture capital backers.



THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE BEAR MARKET

Rainford

RAINFORD is a rare creature indeed. A flotation that is not a management buyout or a spin-off but a family-owned business that needs to come to the market to raise capital *to back its phenomenal* growth. The business has *prospered by getting in on* the ground floor of the boom *in mobile telecommunications*. Its base station cabinets are a vital component in any mobile network. They have to keep the equipment cool and electromagnetically shielded.

The City is used to paying a premium to take part in the exciting world of mobile phones, with good reason. Shares in Filtronic Comtek, which also makes parts for base stations, have risen 170 per cent since they were floated last November. Rainford's shares are being floated on a p/e ratio of more than 17, which does not look a bargain. But if Rainford can sustain its rate of growth, the 270p placing price should soon start to look cheap. City analysts are forecasting profits of £7.7 million in the current year, which would cut the earnings multiple to 13.5, around the average for the electronics sector.

Rainford's task is to use the cash raised from the float to *expand its business and* capitalise on the growth in *overseas markets. The potential* in its markets and the company's record make the shares look attractive.

City property

AN OUTBREAK of market forces is causing anxiety at the heart of the City. Canary Wharf, once the butt of endless jokes, is now serious competition to landlords in the Square Mile and it is mooted that planning rules may need to be smoothed if London's investment bankers are to be saved from a forced evacuation down the Limehouse Tunnel.

A little history goes a long way when attempting to understand property markets. The City Corporation played a part in the property glut and ensuing recession of 1990-1994 with its relaxation of planning rules in the mid-1980s. Demand for space at the time of Big Bang was the rationale but the City fathers *had at least one eye on the* activity down the Docks.

Few *who work in the City* will thank the Corporation if *it builds more Alban Gates or* NatWest towers in order to *house the real or imagined* expansion of the financial *workforce in the next decade*. Canary Wharf is succeeding today because it can provide big floor space cheaply. But plans drawn up today for new City towers could be the financial disasters of tomorrow. What still attracts banks to the City core are the few pockets of character left between the glass and steel and they cannot easily be replaced.

EDITED BY NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

May	940-939	Jul	1043-1041
Jul	963-962	Sep	1053-1051
Sep	982-980	Dec	1070-1060
Dec	1002-1001	Mar	1092-1092
Mar	1023-1022		
May	1033-1032		Volume: 7422

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

May	3095-3092	Jan	2960-2950
Jul	3050-3045	Mar	2945-2930
Sep	3001-3000	May	2930-2910
Nov	2975-2970		Volume: 1654

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	315.8-15.0
Spot: 366.0		Mar	316.7-15.0
May	367.5-67.0	May	316.4-14.5
Aug	356.0-55.5	Aug	315.4-12.5
Oct	327.8-27.0		Volume: 2354

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on April 6

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB	91.27	134.72	126.93
(+/-)	+0.55	+3.49	+0.41
Eng/Wales	91.31	133.85	126.73
(+/-)	+0.54	+2.36	+0.11
(%)	+15.0	+35.0	+22.0
Scotland	86.41	137.72	127.92
(+/-)	+0.66	+7.33	+1.67
(%)	-11.0	+35.0	n/c

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	18.45	-0.05
Brent 15 day (May)	18.20	+0.25
Brent 15 day (Jun)	17.95	+0.35
W Texas Intermediate (May)	19.70	+0.25
W Texas Intermediate (Jun)	19.55	+0.25

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas 15	B: 193 (+5)	O: 195 (+4)
Gasoil EEC	163 (+5)	164 (+5)
Non EEC 1H May	160 (+5)	161 (+5)
Non EEC 1H Jun	158 (+4)	159 (+4)
3.5 Fuel Oil	97 (n/c)	100 (+1)
Naphtha	166 (n/c)	168 (n/c)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Apr	161.00 SLR	Jul	156.25-55.75
May	158.00-57.75	Aug	157.50-57.25
Jun	156.25-56.00		Vol: 30369

BRENT (6.00pm)

May	18.21-18.22	Aug	17.50-17.55
Jun	17.92-17.93	Sep	17.35-17.40
Jul	17.66-17.70		Vol: 40334

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
May	117.25	May	110.25
Jul	118.35	Sep	102.00
Sep	103.35	Nov	103.00
Nov	104.45	Jan	105.00
Jan	106.40	Mar	106.25
Volume: 1060		Volume: 29	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
May	351.0	350.4
Apr	130.0	129.9
Mar	unq	unq
		Volume: 20

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/kg)

May 121.25-121.75

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Apr 95	2250	2235	2247
May 95	2225	2200	2214
Jun 95	2110	2097	2100
Jul 95	1970	1950	1960

Vol: 196 lots Open interest: 4415

Index 2205 -5

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2963.0-2964.5	2933.0-2934.0	[illegible]
Lead ($/tonne)	605.00-606.00	617.00-617.50	147875
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1055.0-1056.0	1077.0-1077.5	325925
Tin ($/tonne)	5860.0-5865.0	5892.0-5893.0	19135
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1857.0-1860.0	1887.0-1887.5	1955300
Nickel ($/tonne)	7620.0-7621.0	7765.0-7770.0	57152

LIFFE OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Dom	500	47	54	59½	0	7½	11½
(*546½)	550	6½	18½	29	9½	29	32
Argyll	280	13½	21	26½	2	11	14
(*291)	300	2½	11	17	11	22	25
ASDA	70	6½	9½	11	0½	2	3
(*76½)	80	0½	4	6	4½	6	[illegible]
Boots	500	20½	31½	40	1½	15	17½
(*519)	550	0	8	17	31½	44½	46
Br Airways	390	21½	31½	30	1	12	16
(*410)	420	3	15½	23½	13	27½	31½
BP	420	13½	24½	34	2	11½	16½
(*421)	460	0½	7½	15	29½	35	38½
Br Steel	140	19½	22½	25	0	1½	3
(*159½)	160	2½	8	12½	2½	8	10
C & W	390	23½	36	42½	1½	10½	14½
(*412)	420	4½	19	27	12	25	28½
CU	543	21	—	—	3	—	—
(*561½)	592	1	—	—	31½	—	—
ICI	700	40	60	70	1	10½	21
(*739½)	750	4½	29	42	17½	30½	43
Kingfishr	460	9	23½	32	8	23½	29
(*469)	500	0	11	16	44½	49½	53½
Land Sec	550	24½	34	39½	1½	16	19
(*573)	600	1	8	16	28	47	49½
M & S	390	26½	32½	39½	0	5½	11
(*416)	420	3½	14	21½	7	19½	24
Nat West	500	50	63	70	0	5½	12½
(*549)	550	9	30	39	9½	22	31½
Sainsbury	420	15½	25	34½	1	12½	16½
(*433½)	460	0½	7½	16	27	36½	39½
Shell	700	19	39½	52	2	12½	19½
(*716½)	750	1	14	25½	34	37½	44½
Smkl Bch	500	12	29	40½	5	18½	25
(*506½)	550	0	10	19	44	50	54½
Storehse	240	5½	12½	18	2½	10½	12½
(*241½)	260	0½	4½	9	18½	23½	25
Trafalgar	50	5	7½	9	0½	2	2½
(*54½)	60	0½	2½	4½	6	7	7
Unilever	1250	17½	54½	80	12	30	40
(*1253½)	1300	2	30	54	47½	58	66½
Zeneca	900	21	55	70½	8½	27½	39
(*913)	950	3½	31	46½	39½	54	64½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Grnd Met	390	17	25½	33	6	14	16
(*399)	420	4	11½	18½	23½	30	32
Ladbroke	160	14½	19½	22½	1½	5	5½
(*171½)	180	3	10	12	10½	14	16½
Utd Bisc	330	14	25½	32	6½	13½	19
(*333½)	360	3	12½	18½	27	30½	35½

	Series	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
BAA	475	20½	—	—	1	—	—
(*494)	500	4½	19	25	10	22½	26
Thames W	460	27½	37½	41	1	14	18
(*486½)	500	2	14	20	15½	29	32½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
BAT Ind	420	40	51½	56	2	11	13
(*456)	460	12	26	32½	13½	27½	30
BTR	330	11	21	25½	7	11	17½
(*332½)	360	1½	9½	12½	29	30	34
Br Aero	443	29	—	—	10½	—	—
(*498)	531	9	—	—	38	—	—
Br Telcm	360	33	39½	42½	1	7	9
(*390½)	390	11	19½	23½	9	20	22
Cadbury	409	41	52	—	1	5	—
(*446½)	447	12	26	—	10½	17	—
Guinness	460	16½	31	36½	9	16	20
(*465)	500	3½	13	15	35½	39½	42
GEC	300	12½	18½	22	4½	12	14½
(*306)	330	2½	5½	9½	24½	31½	33½
Hanson	220	15	21½	25½	1	4	6½
(*236)	240	4½	9	13	7½	12½	15½
LASMO	160	15½	20½	25	1½	4½	6
(*172½)	180	5	9	14	10	13½	15
Lucas	180	18½	24	27½	1½	5	5½
(*197)	200	5½	12½	16½	9½	13½	15
Pilkngtn	160	11	14½	17½	1½	5	7
(*164)	180	1	5	7½	12	16	17½
Prudential	300	29	37½	42	1½	4½	6
(*325½)	330	8	19	25½	11	15	19½
Redland	420	36	42½	49	5	11½	17½
(*454)	460	5½	20	28½	24½	31	37
R-Royce	160	13	19	21½	2	5	8
(*170½)	180	3	8½	12	12	14½	18
Tesco	260	17½	22	27½	4	6½	10½
(*276)	280	4½	11½	17	14	16½	19
Vodafone	190	16½	21½	26½	2	5½	8
(*194)	200	4½	10½	16	10	14	17
Williams	330	16	21½	24½	7	12	17
(*342½)	360	2½	8½	11½	28	30½	34½

FT-SE INDEX (*3213)

	3100	3150	3200	3250	3300	3350
Calls						
Apr	129½	95	46	20½	7	1½
May	149½	111	79	52½	31½	17½
Jun	166	130	101	74½	53	36½
Jul	191	147	127	99	76½	57
Dec	206½	—	236	—	156½	—
Puts						
Apr	4½	10	25	51½	90½	140
May	18½	31	49½	73	104	142½
Jun	34	47	66	92	121	156
Jul	48½	63½	83½	106	134	166
Dec	93	—	131	—	182	—

	Series	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Calls Dec	Puts Jun	Puts Sep	Puts Dec
Abby Nat	460	40½	47½	57	5½	12	14
(*490½)	500	16	26	33	21½	29	31
Amstrad	175	16	—	—	4	—	—
(*185)	200	4½	10½	14½	17	20½	22
Barclays	600	60½	72½	82½	5½	14	15
(*649)	650	26	41	54	22½	33	37
Blue Circ	300	19½	27	32	6	16	18½
(*312½)	330	6½	12½	19½	26	32½	35
Br Gas	290	21½	25	29	4½	—	—
(*299)	300	9	13½	17½	14½	17	21½
Dixons	220	21½	23½	27	4	10	[illegible]
(*234)	240	10	12	16½	13½	20½	21
Forte	220	17	21½	25	3	[illegible]	[illegible]
(*225½)	240	6½	10½	15	13	16	18
Hillsdwn	180	10½	14	17	[illegible]	6	10
(*197½)	200	2	5½	8½	20	21	22
Lonrho	160	11	14	17	6½	10½	12
(*161½)	180	3	6½	9	19	22	24
Sears	100	9½	11½	13	1½	3	4
(*108½)	110	3	6	8	6½	7	9
Thrn Emi	1100	46	61	73	22½	43	49½
(*1112½)	1150	23	36½	50	49½	71½	77½
Tomkins	240	15½	20	24½	6	12½	14½
(*246½)	260	6	10½	15½	17	22	25½
TSB	240	15½	22½	26½	4	14	18
(*245)	260	8	13½	17½	20	25	26
Wellcome	1000	68½	76	—	0	2	—
(*1066½)	1050	29	34	—	5½	12	—
	Series	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Glaxo	700	37½	61½	74½	2	15	28½
(*735)	750	6½	32	46	20½	37	52
HSBC	700	27½	64	31½	4½	24	38
(*725)	750	7½	37½	54½	25	49½	62
Reuter	460	28	44	54	1½	10	16
(*495)	500	4	21	32½	17½	27½	34
	Series	**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**May**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Royal Ins	280	20½	29	32	4	7½	12
(*295)	300	9	16½	21	15	17	22
	Series	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Fisons	180	12½	19½	25	9	12½	16
(*184½)	200	5	11½	16½	21	25	27½
	Series	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Eastern Gp	600	21½	39	50½	16	39	45
(*601)	650	5	20	31	50	72½	77
	Series	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Dec**
Natl Pwr	420	25½	30½	38	12½	17	19½
(*434½)	460	6	12½	20	29	41	42
Scot Pwr	300	24½	30	42½	4	10	11½
(*324½)	330	14	21	26	14	23	25

April 7, 1995 Tot: 35882 Calls: 19078 Put: 16804 FT-SE Call: 7115 Put: 7634

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	*Open*	*High*	*Low*	*Sett*	*Vol*
FT-SE 100	Jun 95	3229.0	3255.0	3224.0	3235.0	9263
Previous open interest: 70942	Sep 95				3259.0	0
FT-SE 250	Jun 95	3515.0	3515.0	3515.0	3525.0	3
Previous open interest: 4392	Sep 95					0
Three Month Sterling	Jun 95	92.93	92.91	92.83	92.87	21780
Previous open interest: 392389	Sep 95	92.41	92.50	92.41	92.46	17372
	Dec 95	92.08	92.18	92.07	92.14	6842
Three Mth Eurodollar	Jun 95				93.63	0
Previous open interest: 1149	Sep 95				93.44	0
Three Mth Euro DM	Jun 95	95.31	95.35	95.31	95.31	17861
Previous open interest: 694415	Sep 95	95.15	95.19	95.12	95.14	25516
Long Gilt	Jun 95	103-16	104-08	103-15	103-24	48319
Previous open interest: 86536	Sep 95				103-14	0
Japanese Govmt Bond	Jun 95	115.80	115.85	115.50	115.60	3563
	Sep 95				114.81	0
German Gov Bd Bund	Jun 95	92.73	92.93	92.32	92.51	112315
Previous open interest: 187925	Sep 95	92.24	92.32	92.24	91.97	2
Three month ECU	Jun 95	93.60	93.75	93.60	93.69	3227
Previous open interest: 19232	Sep 95	93.54	93.63	93.54	93.58	984
Euro Swiss Franc	Jun 95	96.62	96.65	96.59	96.62	2349
Previous open interest: 38794	Sep 95	96.53	96.58	96.51	96.54	1562
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 95	94.08	94.82	93.92	94.27	30955
Previous open interest: 47671	Sep 95				93.62	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7

Discount Market Loans: *O/night high: 5¾ Low 4½ Week fixed: 5½*

Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth [illegible]. Sell: 2 mth [illegible]; 3 mth: [illegible].

	1 mth	*2 mth*	*3 mth*	*6 mth*	*12 mth*
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Overnight: open 5¾ close 5¼.

Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	6.03	n/a	6.15	6.28	6.59
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts. £3,934m allotted: £900m: Bids: £98.465% received: %: Last week £98.475% received: 81%: Avge rate: £6.1346% last wk £6.1134%: Next week: £900m

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Deutschemark:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	5-4
French Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	9-7
Swiss Franc:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $393.30-393.70 Close: $393.30-393.80 High: $393.30-393.80
Low: $391.85-392.35 AM: $392.00 PM: $393.10

Krugerrand: $396.00-399.00 (£247.00-249.00)

Platinum: $455.00 (£282.85) **Silver:** $5.42 (£3.375) **Palladium:** $173.75 (£108.00)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for April 7	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.4699-2.4834	2.4807-2.4834	[illegible]pr	1¼-1pr
Brussels	45.33-45.64	45.51-45.61	6-1pr	18-11pr
Copenhagen	8.6870-8.7330	8.7180-8.7320	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Dublin	0.9905-0.9935	0.9907-0.9932	1-4pr	2-7ds
Frankfurt	2.2076-2.2206	2.2150-2.2180	[illegible]pr	1¼-1pr
Lisbon	232.98-234.18	232.98-233.62	73-84ds	227-250ds
Madrid	199.23-201.00	199.23-199.53	38-50ds	124-138ds
Milan	2724.30-2756.00	2724.30-2734.10	8-12ds	28-34ds
Montreal	2.2275-2.2396	2.2275-2.2305	0.30-0.40ds	0.61-0.74ds
New York	1.6022-1.6098	1.6022-1.6032	0.03pr-par	0.15-0.11ds
Oslo	9.9090-9.9490	9.9320-9.9470	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Paris	7.6910-7.7180	7.7000-7.7130	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Stockholm	11.7610-11.8190	11.7660-11.7910	[illegible]ds	[illegible]ds
Tokyo	134.69-135.64	134.69-134.94	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Vienna	15.55-15.64	15.58-15.61	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr
Zurich	1.8182-1.8240	1.8187-1.8216	[illegible]pr	[illegible]pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3482-1.3491
Austria	9.71-9.72
Belgium (Com)	28.37-28.38
Canada	1.3902-1.3907
Denmark	5.4264-5.4284
France	4.8039-4.8060
Germany	1.3798-1.3808
Hong Kong	7.7317-7.7327
Ireland	1.6189-1.6204
Italy	1703.00-1705.00
Japan	84.05-84.10
Malaysia	2.4928-2.4938
Netherlands	1.5453-1.5458
Norway	6.1741-6.1791
Portugal	*145.29-145.40*
Singapore	1.4038-1.4048
Spain	123.95-124.20
Sweden	7.3203-7.3300
Switzerland	1.1325-1.1335

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6050-1.6077
Australia dollar	2.1635-2.1664
Bahrain dinar	0.600-0.612
Brazil real*	1.4364-1.4406
China yuan	12.75 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.695-0.705
Finland markka	6.7775-6.8935
Greece drachma	355.75-362.75
Hong Kong dollar	12.4071-12.4164
India rupee	50.05-51.01
Indonesia rupiah	3555.00-3623.60
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4645-0.4745
Malaysia ringgit	4.0002-4.0043
New Zealand dollar	2.4243-2.4291
Pakistan rupee	49.15 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.970-6.096
Singapore dollar	2.2537-2.2562
S Africa rand (com)	5.6620-5.7723
U A E dirham	5.845-5.969

Barclays Bank GTS * *Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	259	Legal & Gn	2,000
ASDA Gp	3,800	Lloyds Bk	1,400
Abbey Natl	2,800	MEPC	1,900
Alld Dom	1,200	Marks Spr	7,100
Argyll Gp	2,000	NatWst Bk	6,800
Arjo Wiggn	1,700	Nat Power	4,600
AB Foods	335	Nth Wst W	2,100
BAA	1,300	P & O	1,400
BAT Inds	4,600	Pearson	666
BOC	530	PowerGen	2,400
BP	18,000	Prudential	3,000
BTR	8,400	RMC	555
BT	4,200	RTZ	2,800
Bk of Scot	3,500	Rank Org	868
Barclays	2,100	Reckitt Col	578
Bass	4,100	Redland	3,800
Blue Circle	5,400	Reed Intl	1,300
Boots	1,100	Rentokil	2,700
Bowater	216	Reuters	5,800
Brit Aero	581	Rolls Royce	3,500
Brit Airwys	3,200	Ryl Ins	3,000
Brit Gas	4,800	Ryl Bk Scot	1,800
Brit Steel	7,800	Sainsbury	3,000
Burmah Cstl	451	Schroders	15
Cable Wire	8,400	Scot & New	2,000
Cadbury	2,200	Scot Power	1,200
Caradon	4,700	Sears	2,600
Carlton Cms	285	Svrn Trent	1,000
Cm Union	2,500	Shell Trans	5,400
Courtaulds	412	Siebe	705
De La Rue	933	SmKl Bch	2,500
Eastern Elec	1,400	Smith Nph	1,500
Enterpr Oil	2,300	Sthern Elec	424
Forte	2,200	*Std Chartd*	1,400
GKN	1,100	Sun Allnce	2,500
GRE	2,700	TI Gp	443
GUS	2,000	TSB	1,300
Gen Acc	851	Tate & Lyle	800
Gen Elec	3,300	Tesco	7,500
Glaxo	6,300	Thames W	570
Granada	829	Thrn EMI	2,000
Grand Met	2,000	Tomkins	2,300
Guinness	3,400	Unilever	642
HSBC	5,000	Utd Bisc	764
Hanson	*6,000*	*Vodafone*	6,900
ICI	700	Warburg	632
Inchcape	1,300	Whitbread	402
Kingfisher	5,100	Wlms Hld	*1,100*
Ladbroke	1,200	Wolseley	1,400
Land Secs	1,800	Zeneca	2,600

	Apr 7 midday	Apr 6 close
AMP Inc	38¼	39
AMR Corp	67½	66½
AT & T	51¼	52¼
Abbott Labs	37½	38¼
Advanced Micro	35½	35¾
Aetna Life	58¾	58½
Ahmanson (HF)	20½	19½
Air Prod & Chem	51¼	50¾
Albertson's	31½	32¼
Alcan Aluminum	27½	28¼
Alco Standard	71½	71¼
Allied Signal	39½	39¾
Alum Co of Am	41½	41¼
Amax Gold Inc	5⅝	5¾
Amerada Hess	49½	50¼
Amer Brands	38¼	38¼
Amer El Power	33	33
Amer Express	35⅞	35¼
Amer Genl Corp	31¼	31¾
Amer Home Pr	75¾	74½
Amer Intl	106⅛	106½
Amer Stores	25	24½
Ameritech	43½	43¾
Amoco	62½	63¼
Anheuser-Busch	58⅝	58⅝
Apple Computer	36½	36¼
Archer Daniels	18¼	18¼
Armco	7	7
Armstrng Wrld	45½	45⅞
Asarco	28⅛	27½
Ashland Oil	34	34¼
Atl Richfield	111¼	113¼
Auto Data Pro	62½	62⅝
Avery Dennison	39⅝	39½
Avon Products	60	59½
Baker Hughes	20⅛	20⅛
Baltim Gas & El	24⅞	24¼
Banc One	30⅞	30¼
BankAmerica	50¼	50½
Bank of NY	33¼	33¼
Bankers Tr NY	53⅝	53⅝
Barnett Banks	46½	46¼
Bausch & Lomb	37	38⅝
Baxter Intl	33⅝	33⅜
Becton Dicknsn	56⅝	56½
Bell Atlantic	53⅝	54¼
Bell Industries	21⅛	21⅛
BellSouth	60¼	61
Black & Decker	28⅝	28¼
Block (H&R)	43	43
Boeing	53½	53⅝
Boise Cascade	35⅛	35⅛
Bristol Myrs Sq	62¾	62¾
Browning Ferris	34⅞	34⅛
Brunswick	20⅜	20⅛
Burlington Nthn	58⅝	58⅝
CBS	64⅛	64⅝
CNA Financial	75⅝	75⅛
CPC Intl	55¼	55¼
CSX	79¼	79
Campbell Soup	47⅛	47⅛
Can Pacific	15¼	15⅛
Cpd Cities ABC	87½	86¼
Carolina Pwr	27½	27¼
Caterpillar	55⅞	56
Central & SW	25	25
Champion Intl	42⅛	42⅛
Chase Manhat	42⅛	41¼
Chemical Bk	40⅛	41¼
Chevron Corp	45⅝	46⅛
Chrysler	39⅝	40
Chubb Corp	79½	80
Cigna Corp	73⅝	73⅛
Citicorp	44⅛	45¼
Clorox	60⅛	61¼
Coastal Corp	28⅝	28⅝
Coca Cola	58	58⅝
Colgate-Palmolive	67⅛	68¼
Columbia Gas	29⅛	29⅛
Compaq Comp	32⅝	32⅝
Comp Ass Intl	57⅝	58¼
Conagra	34⅛	34¼
Conrail	53	53
Cons Edison	27⅜	27⅛
Cons Nat Gas	38⅛	38⅛
Cooper Inds	36⅛	36⅜
Corning Inc	36⅛	36⅛
Crown Cork	42⅛	43⅛
Dana Corp	24⅝	24⅝
Dayton Hudson	67⅛	68⅛
Deere	81⅛	81⅝
Delta Air Lines	63⅛	63⅛
Deluxe Corp	29⅛	29⅛
Detroit Edison	28⅛	28⅛
Digital Equip	39⅝	38⅝
Dillard Dept St	27⅛	27⅛
Disney (Walt)	54⅛	54⅛
Dominion Res	37	37⅛
Donnelley (RR)	34⅛	34⅛
Dover Corp	65⅛	65
Dow Chemical	73⅛	72⅛
Dow Jones	37⅛	37⅛
Dresser	23⅛	23⅛
Duke Power	39⅛	39⅛
Dun & Bradstreet	53⅛	53⅛
Du Pont	63⅛	64⅛
Eastman Kodak	51⅛	52⅛
Eaton Corp	53	52⅛
Emerson Elec	66⅛	66⅛
Engelhard Corp	36⅛	37

	Apr 7 midday	Apr 6 close
Enron Corp	33⅝	33⅝
Entergy	21⅝	21½
Ethyl Corp	10½	10⅝
Exxon	68⅛	66⅝
FMC Corp	60½	60⅛
FPL Group	37⅛	37⅛
Federal Express	68⅛	69⅝
Fed Nat Mtge	84⅛	84⅝
First Chicago	51⅛	51¼
First Interstate	80⅛	80½
First Union Rlty	7⅛	7⅝
Fleet Finl Grp	32⅛	32⅛
Fluor Corp	48⅛	48⅛
Ford Motor	26⅛	27⅛
GTE Corp	33⅝	34
Gannett	51⅛	52⅛
Gap Inc Del	33⅛	34⅛
Gen Dynamics	47⅛	48
Gen Electric	54⅛	55⅛
Gen Mills	60⅛	60⅛
Gen Motors	43	43
Gen Reinsurance	132⅛	133
Gen Signal	35⅛	36
Genuine Parts	39⅛	39⅛
Georgia Pac	79⅛	79⅛
Gillette	83⅛	83⅛
Glaxo ADR	23⅛	23⅛
Goodrich (BF)	49⅛	45⅛
Goodyear Tire	38	38⅛
Grace (WR)	52⅛	53⅛
Gt Atl Pac Tea	23⅛	23⅛
Great Wstn Fin	21⅛	20⅛
Halliburton	36⅛	37
Harcourt General	39⅛	39⅛
Heinz (HJ)	39⅛	39⅛
Hercules	46⅛	46⅛
Hershey Foods	51⅛	52⅛
Hewlett Packard	119⅛	119⅛
Hilton Hotels	76⅛	76⅛
Home Depot	42⅛	42⅛
Homestake Mng	18⅛	18⅛
Honeywell	37	37⅛
Household Intl	45	44⅛
Houston Inds	39⅛	39⅛
Humana	25⅛	25⅛
ITT Corp	102⅛	102⅛
Illinois Tool	47⅛	47⅛
Illinova	23⅛	23⅛
INCO	28⅛	28⅛
Ingersoll Rand	32⅛	33⅛
Inland Steel	25⅛	26
Intel Corp	85⅛	85⅛
IBM	84	83⅛
Intl Flav & Fr	52⅛	53
Intl Paper	75⅛	75⅛
James River Va	26	26⅛
Jnson & Jnson	58⅛	59⅛
Kellogg	59	58⅛
Kerr-McGee	50⅛	51⅛
Kimberly-Clark	52⅛	52⅛
Kmart	14⅛	14
Knight-Ridder	56⅛	56⅛
Lilly (Eli)	74⅛	74⅛
Limited Inc	22⅛	22⅛
LIN Brdcstng	121⅛	121⅛
Lincoln Nat	41	40⅛
Litton	35⅛	36⅛
Liz Claiborne	18⅛	18⅛
Lockheed Martin	54⅛	53⅛
Louisiana Pac	27⅛	27⅛
MCI Comm	21⅛	21
Marriott Int	33⅛	33⅛
Marsh & McLnn	83⅛	83⅛
Masco Corp	26	26
May Dept St	37⅛	37⅛
Maytag Corp	16⅛	16⅛
McDonalds	34⅛	35
McDonnell D	56⅛	56⅛
McGraw Hill	71⅛	72⅛
Mead Corp	53⅛	53⅛
Medtronic	70⅛	71⅛
Mellon Bk	41⅛	41⅛
Melville Corp	37⅛	36⅛
Merck Inc	42⅛	43⅛
Merrill Lynch	43⅛	43⅛
Minnesota Mine	57⅛	58
Mobil Corp	88⅛	90⅛
Monsanto	82⅛	82⅛
Morgan (JP)	61⅛	63⅛
Motorola Inc	55⅛	55⅛
Natl Semi	18	17⅛
Natl Service Ind	27⅛	27⅛
Navistar Int	14⅛	13⅛
NBD Bancorp	32⅛	33
NY Times A	23⅛	23⅛
Newmont Mng	43⅛	43⅛
Niag Mohawk	14⅛	14⅛
Nike B	74⅛	75⅛
NL Industries	12⅛	12⅛
Noram Energy	5⅛	5⅛
Nordstrom	41⅛	41⅛
Norfolk Sthrn	66⅛	67⅛
Nthn State Pwr	44⅛	44⅛
Norwest Corp	26⅛	26⅛
Nynex Corp	40⅛	40⅛
Occidental Pet	22⅛	23
Ohio Edison	20⅛	20⅛
Oracle Systems	29⅛	29⅛
Oryx Energy Co	12⅛	12⅛
Owens Corning	36⅛	36⅛

	Apr 7 midday	Apr 6 close
PPG Industries	37	37⅝
PNC Bank	25⅛	25⅛
Paccar Inc	43⅛	43
PacifiCorp	19⅛	19⅛
Pac Enterprises	24⅛	24⅛
Pac Gas & Elect	25⅛	25⅛
Pac Telesis	30	29⅛
Pall Corp	21	21⅛
Panhandle East	23⅛	23⅛
Parker Hannifin	45⅛	45
Peco Energy	26	26
Penney (JC)	45⅛	46
Pennzoil	48⅛	49⅛
Pepsico	39⅛	39⅛
Pfizer	87⅛	87
Phelps Dodge	57⅛	58⅛
Philip Morris	67⅛	67⅛
Phillips Pet	35	35⅛
Pitney Bowes	36⅛	36⅛
Polaroid	33⅛	33⅛
PriceCostco	14⅛	14⅛
Procter & Gmbl	68	68⅛
Providian	35⅛	35⅛
Pub Serv E & G	27⅛	28⅛
Quaker Oats	35⅛	35⅛
Ralston Purina	48	47⅛
Raychem Corp	40⅛	40⅛
Raytheon	71⅛	71⅛
Reebok Intl	35⅛	35⅛
Reynolds Metals	49⅛	49⅛
Roadway Srvcs	48⅛	48
Rockwell Intl	40	40
Rohm & Haas	57⅛	58⅛
Royal Dutch	120⅛	120⅛
Rubbermaid	33	33⅛
Safeco Corp	55⅛	55⅛
St Paul's Cos	50⅛	49⅛
Salomon Inc	34⅛	34⅛
Santa Fe Pac	22⅛	22⅛
Sara Lee Corp	27⅛	27⅛
Scecorp	16⅛	16⅛
Schering Plough	77⅛	77⅛
Schlumberger	59⅛	59⅛
Scott Paper	86⅛	89
Seagram	25⅛	27⅛
Sears Roebuck	52⅛	53⅛
Shell Trans	69	70⅛
Sherwin Wllms	33⅛	33⅛
Skyline Corp	18⅛	18⅛
Snap-On-Tools	36⅛	35⅛
Southern Co	20⅛	20⅛
Sthwestern Bell	42⅛	42⅛
Sprint Corp	33⅛	33⅛
Stanley Works	41⅛	41⅛
Sun Company	28⅛	27⅛
Sun Microsys	34⅛	34⅛
Suntrust	54⅛	54⅛
Supervalu	26⅛	26⅛
Sysco Corp	27	27
TRW Inc	66⅛	68⅛
TCC Inds	2	2
Tandem Comp	14⅛	14⅛
Tandy Corp	48⅛	49⅛
Teledyne	26⅛	26⅛
Temple Inland	45⅛	45⅛
Tenet Healthcare	16⅛	16⅛
Tenneco	48⅛	48⅛
Texaco	64⅛	64⅛
Texas Inst	86⅛	86⅛
Texas Utilities	32⅛	32⅛
Textron	52⅛	53⅛
Time Warner	37⅛	37⅛
Times-Mirror A	19⅛	19⅛
Timken	37⅛	37⅛
Torchmark	41⅛	41⅛
Toys R Us	25⅛	26
Transamerica	57⅛	58⅛
Travelers	38	39⅛
Tribune	56⅛	55⅛
Tyco Labs	52⅛	52⅛
UST Inc	31⅛	32
UAL	108⅛	109⅛
USX Marathon	17⅛	18
Unicom	25	25
Unilever NV	129⅛	133⅛
Union Camp	51⅛	51⅛
Union Carbide	30⅛	30⅛
Union Pacific	54⅛	55
Unisys Corp	9⅛	9⅛
USAIR Group	6⅛	6⅛
USF&G Corp	14	14⅛
US Life	38⅛	38⅛
US West	40⅛	40⅛
United Tech	69⅛	69⅛
Unocal Corp	28⅛	28⅛
Upjohn	35⅛	36⅛
VF Corp	52⅛	53⅛
WMX Tech	27⅛	27⅛
Wal-Mart Stores	25⅛	25⅛
Warner-Lambert	77⅛	77⅛
Wells Fargo	[illegible]	[illegible]
Westinghouse El	14⅛	15
Weyerhaeuser	39⅛	39⅛
Whirlpool	53⅛	53⅛
Whitman	18⅛	18
Winn Dixie	55⅛	55⅛
Woolworth	15⅛	16⅛
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	44⅛	45⅛
Xerox	115⅛	115⅛
Yellow Corp	19⅛	18⅛

[illegible]

TWO-WAY SPLIT 29

Divorcing couples are starting to split pensions

WEEKEND MONEY

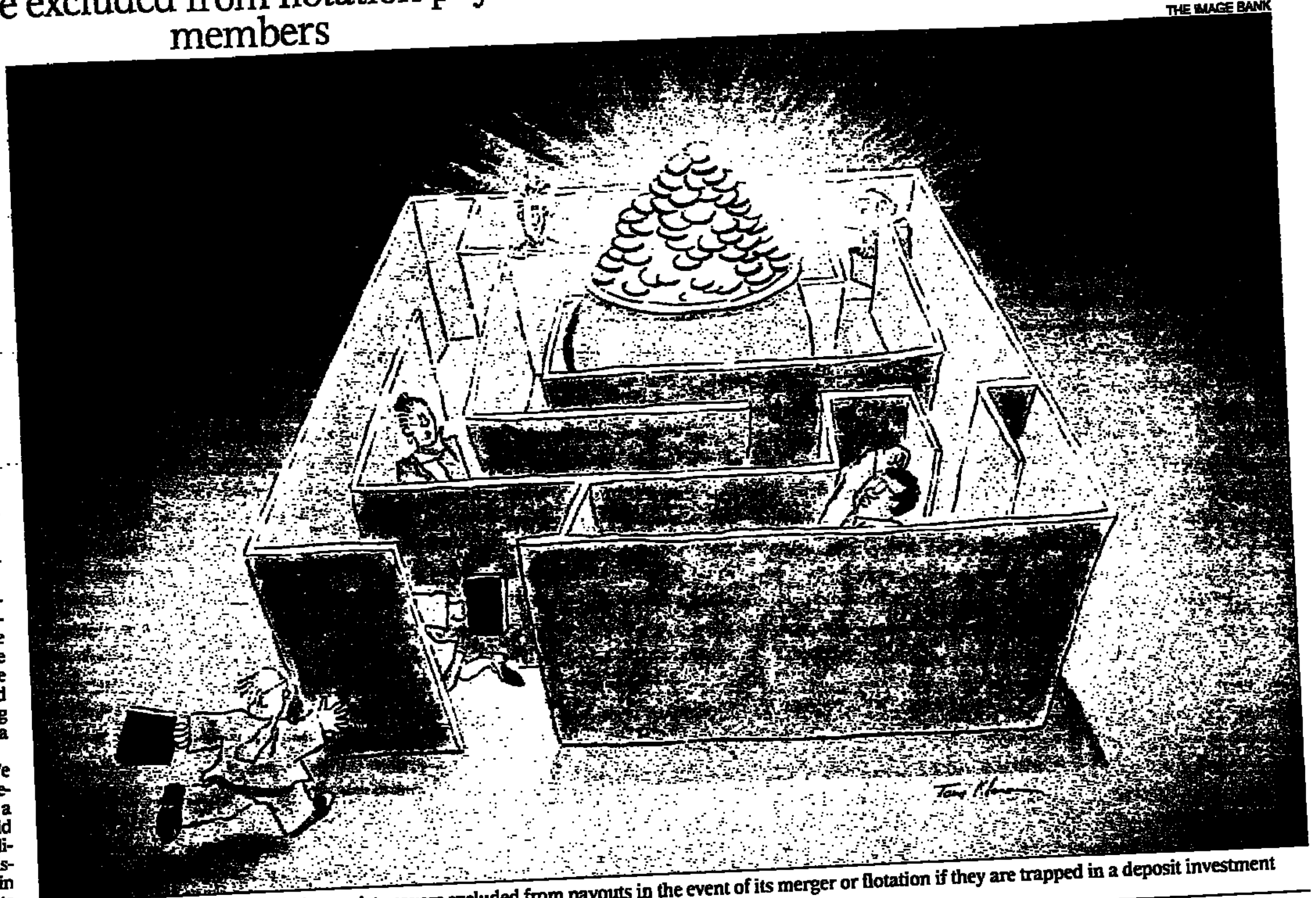
FRIENDLESS 31

The health insurer that didn't provide

Thousands of Halifax savers may be excluded from flotation payout as technicality makes them non-members

Depositors miss merger bonanzas

You may think you belong to your building society, but do you? Anne Ashworth reports



THE IMAGE BANK

A legal maze can leave building society savers excluded from payouts in the event of its merger or flotation if they are trapped in a deposit investment

Those who disapprove of building societies abandoning mutuality to metamorphose into banks probably hope that other societies do not share the aspirations of the Halifax and the Leeds. However, last week's High Court approval of the Halifax's plan to turn itself into a £10 billion bank, after a merger with the Leeds, means that other societies now have a model to follow.

The Alliance & Leicester and the Nationwide did nothing to dampen speculation that they were in talks with each other, but were also speaking to other societies.

Although the outcome of all these conversations is uncertain, the news has sent investors scurrying to put money into both societies.

They are hoping to benefit from any cash or share distribution made if either society decided to go public, or if, in imitation of the Halifax deal, the pair merged and then went to the market.

However, as current law stands, tens of thousands of building society investors will not make money from this or any other rumoured merger because they hold deposit accounts, which do not qualify for bonus payouts. This exclusion applies however long they have saved with the society.

Unlike shareholding investors, who are members of the society, depositors, under an arcane rule, rank as creditors and have no rights to receive financial information on the society nor to vote at meetings, including those held to decide on the outcome of takeover bids.

If you find the distinction between share and deposit accounts obscure and anomalous, you are not alone.

When opening an account, few people would care to question whether it was of the deposit, or share, variety. The interest rate and the notice period seem more relevant. Even if you see the word depositor in the literature, you assume that it is a synonym for saver.

As the law stands, the two million Cardcash account and the one million Maxim account customers of the Halifax will be denied free shares at the society's planned market debut unless they are also borrowers, or investors in share accounts.

Having observed how depositors have become the second class citizens of the building society world, the Treasury wants to make amends. Ministers want to see handouts on flotations and mergers fairly shared among all those with a stake in a society.

A spokeswoman said: "We feel that the distinction between a depositor and a shareholding member should be done away with. The Halifax has promised that if legislation, to be introduced in about 18 months, comes into effect before the society joins the stock market, some time in 1997, its conversion plans will be amended to possibly allow depositors to benefit. But there are no promises.

David Gilchrist, general manager warns that making the legislation retrospective would pose great problems for the Government. He adds: "And it it were not retrospective, then it would be very difficult for us to allow depositors to benefit."

Meanwhile Halifax and Leeds depositors will continue to voice anger at their exclusion: The case of Alan Sergent, a retired teacher, is typical. In 1991, he was by persuaded by his local branch of the Halifax to transfer from its Instant Extra account to its Asset Reserve. This cheque-based account is a deposit account, but Mr Sergent did not learn this until last month. He says that it was not made clear when he opened the account, either in literature or by staff, and feels that the Halifax has broken faith with a loyal customer.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Halifax merger details due

By Robert Miller

AFTER more than four months of speculation, the 10 million-plus members of the Halifax and Leeds building societies will at last have the information they need to decide whether to vote for the merger and subsequent stock market flotation of the combined entity.

By April 19, both societies should have mailed all their members with information booklets on the proposed merger and flotation as well as guidelines on the voting procedure. A special general meeting has been called by both societies for May 22. The Leeds venue is the West Yorkshire Playhouse in the morning and the Halifax will hold its meeting at the Victoria Theatre in the afternoon. Postal votes have to be received by May 15. If members approve the deal, the merger should be completed on August 1.

The 40-plus page booklets contain all the neccessary financial information and details on how Halifax, the public company, aims to become the leading provider of financial services in the UK. What they do not say, however, is what alternatives to merging with the Leeds were considered, or, indeed, whether any other avenues were explored. The booklets also explain the distribution of free shares if members vote in favour of the merger and subsequent conversion to banking status. However, a separate vote will be needed before a stock market listing can be applied for.

After the merger the Halifax will rebrand its accounts by dropping the "Xtra" tag. Instead, four types of account will be promoted using the "gold" branding of the Leeds and made famous in advertisements featuring George Cole, the actor.

SHARE ACCOUNTS OR DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS: WHICH DO YOU HAVE?

ABOUT 100,000 investors in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society will not receive payouts, due in July, in the £1.8 billion Lloyds takeover bonanza because they were depositors, not share account holders.

Do you know what sort of account you hold with your society?. The details below relate to accounts currently on offer in the UK branches of the top societies, or via the post.

For details of Halifax accounts, ring the Helpline on 0800 834625. For details of Leeds accounts, ring the Helpline on 0800 888844. For details of closed accounts, apply to the individual society.

Share account holders must be over 18 to vote and have a minimum of £100 in their accounts. The voting rights apply to the first-named holder on the account only.

As offshore accounts are held with a subsidiary of the society, they are deposit accounts. Additional Voluntary Contribution (AVC) accounts are almost universally treated as deposit accounts. One exception is the Coventry which considers its AVC account to be a share account.

Alliance & Leicester
Share accounts: Bonus 90, Instant Access, Midas, Tessa, Special Edition.
Deposit accounts: Alliance Current, Cashcard, Keyway.

Birmingham Midshires
All accounts in current range are share accounts.

Bradford & Bingley
Share accounts: Ordinary Share, Direct Premium, Direct Notice, First Choice, Timesaver, Special Asset, Classic Tessa II, High Return Tessa II.

Bristol & West
Share accounts: Balmoral, Instant Access, Asset 90-day notice, Asset HICA, Select, Premier Saver, Premier Plus, Bonus Tessa, Tessa Plus, Premier Option Bond, Guaranteed Equity Bond.
Deposit accounts: Special Monthly Income, Special Deposits, Time Deposits.

Britannia
Share accounts: Bonus Builder, Capital Trust, High Interest, Monthly Income, Instant Access, Platinum Tessa, Monthly Tessa, Flexi Tessa, Index Linked Account, One Year Fixed Rate Bond.
Deposit accounts: Current Account.

Coventry
Share acccounts: Fixed Rate Prosperity Bond, Fixed Rate Bond, Instant Option, Moneymaker, Postal 50, Tessa, AVC, Bonus Account, Investment.

Nationwide
All current range are share accounts.

Northern Rock
Share accounts: Sixty Day 120 Day Annual, 120 Day Monthly, Current Account, Postal 60 Annual, Postal 60 Monthly, Go Direct, Tessa.

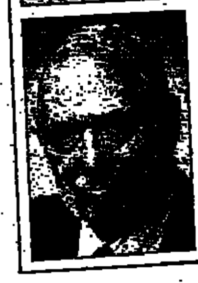
Portman
All current range are share accounts

Woolwich
Share accounts: Prime Gold, Premier 90, Tessa, Fixed Rate Bonds.
Deposit accounts: Deposit Account, Current Account.

Yorkshire
Share accounts: Tessa Premier, Key 90 Plus, Platinum Key, Golden Key, Cash Key.

A shifting viewpoint

INVESTMENT STRATEGY



ANTHONY HARRIS

The Japanese stock market, as everyone knows, is vanishing down a black hole. Wall Street, meanwhile, is cautiously testing new highs every day. But if you are an American holder of Japanese stocks, you have suffered no loss at all: the rise of the yen has exactly offset the fall in the Nikkei. And if you are a Japanese holder of American stocks, you are nursing a loss of more than 10 per cent; the Dow has not kept up with the rising yen.

And what, pray, is the moral of that? That the global investor must constantly try to guess exchange rate trends? Or that stock prices try, roughly, to maintain constant real values, so the investor can ignore both indices and exchange rates, and concentrate on stock picking? Both conclusions, confusingly, are half right; so it is not surprising that a lot of investors, especially the Japanese, are drawing a third moral: that global investment is too risky to touch.

For the Japanese, indeed, it has been simply a choice of where you take your losses: 20 per cent at home, a bit less in London or Wall Street, still more in Frankfurt — a strong economy — or vertiginous in Mexico, the weakest.

However, there is a monster trap for them: the danger that financial panic will destroy a strong real economy, as it destroyed the US economy after the 1929 crash.

Their refusal to buy any securities except their own government bonds is seemingly sensible; all the same, it is a major cause of their woes. When they don't invest abroad, they create an international yen famine, only partly relieved by commercial lending and central bank intervention. Logically, the yen must go on rising until the Japanese current account surplus is wiped out. And if they won't support their own equities, then their banking system will be paralysed as its balance sheet assets melt away.

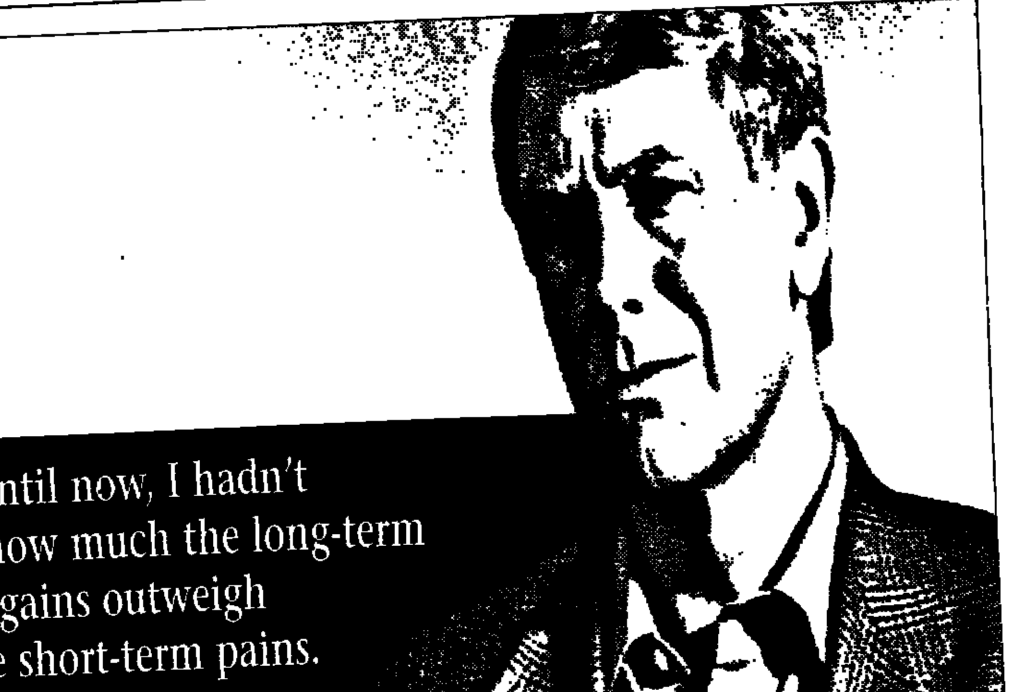
While no English-speaking investor faces this kind of dilemma, in which the apparent path to safety leads straight into the pit, there is still an important lesson for all of us: panic remains the deadliest off all dangers to investors. It threatens not only the Japanese, but the Italians, the Mexicans and the Brazilians nationally; and in a far less threatening form, the British home owners nursing negative equity. And the warning sign, in most cases, is not panic, but euphoria: the buying panic that drove the Nikkei to three-figure price/earnings ratios, that raised the Mexican stock market 50 per cent in a year or bid City rents up to £70 a square foot. The sound investor must have a sense of real values.

Which brings us back to where we came in. The Japanese investor can see that, from his point of view, Wall Street values are down, but American earnings are up 20 per cent even in devalued dollars. So he may conclude either that Wall Street is still lagging behind real values, or that the dollar fall has been overdone.

Either way, US securities look a good long-term bet. And the American investor, noting that Japanese stocks have held their dollar value in spite of a threatening slump, may conclude that even after its local fall, the Nikkei is overvalued. He need not guess whether the trouble is going to be resolved by a further fall in the index or by a yen correction.

Common sense? It may look like it: however, note that neither conclusion will appeal to the investor who simply watches the indices. For him, the Dow may now be looking a little overstretched; the Nikkei "must" be a bargain after falling 60 per cent from its peak.

So the global equity investor should look not at the official indices, but at the indices expressed in his own currency: this is actually a more reliable guide to value. Wise pension fund managers have known this for years. Note, though, that the rules apply only to equities. Bond investors must take a currency view; that is why global bonds are such a specualtive holding.



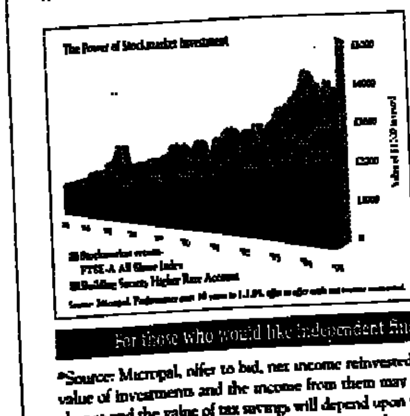
"Until now, I hadn't realised how much the long-term gains outweigh the short-term pains.

That's obviously why people invest."

Most people know that investing can bring bigger rewards than saving, but it can be difficult to take the plunge, especially when markets are uncertain.

It's only by comparing the figures over a number of years that you can see just how much bigger the rewards of stockmarket investment can be.

As the graph shows, £1,000 invested in the stockmarket 10 years ago would have grown to £3,594. The same amount in a savings account, while safe from any falls in value, would have grown to a mere £1,913 over the same period.



So if you're prepared to take a long-term view, what do you do next?

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*Source: Micropal, offer to bid, net income reinvested to 1.3.95 Five year performance. FTSE-A All Share Index +50.5%, Building Society Higher Rate Account +31.7%. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up, and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings will depend upon individual circumstances. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Issued by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

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Breaking high yen's profit stranglehold

Japan must act fast to stop a backslide into recession, says Robert Miller

ROBIN LAURANCE

Japan is planning some heavyweight spending on its railways

As the world's second-largest economy after the US, *Japan should be an automatic choice for any* well-diversified portfolio. But as currency speculators pushed the yen ever higher against the dollar this week, investors may have considered switching their money into less volatile havens.

The most immediate effect of a soaring yen is that it hits company profits. As Japan is one of the largest investors in Britain and Europe, it has implications nearer to home, with Japanese companies cutting back on investment. Every time the dollar falls by one cent against the yen, Toyota, the world's largest motor manufacturer, sees $100 million wiped off its profits.

The Bank of Japan has been intervening heavily in the foreign exchange markets, buying dollars and selling yen. This week the US Federal Reserve followed suit on a smaller scale. But at least the Bank of Japan can draw on its foreign exchange reserves, which last month topped $141 billion, the largest government safety net yet recorded in the world.

The view of UK fund managers is that the Japanese authorities must act quickly if the tentative economic recovery is not to come to a halt. Stephen Mitchell, a director of Fleming's Japanese portfolio group, says: "It can take months for government-led actions to take effect, so any change of direction will have to come from the Bank of Japan. Unless there is a policy change the economy will be forced back into recession."

In recent years, the Japanese Government has invested heavily in infrastructure, improving roads, railways and telecommunications systems. And as the authorities rebuild Kobe after the earthquake, that spending will rise. Last year, the Government announced a series of tax cuts designed to stimulate consumer spending, and eased a number of its 11,500 restrictive regulations.

Opening up the Japanese economy has already had an effect. In 1994, the volume of imports rocketed by almost 19 per cent compared with the previous year. In the first three months of this year, car sales were up 10 per cent over the same period in 1994.

Denis Clough, manager of *Japanese funds at Schtoders, which has 5 per cent of its £60 billion of funds invested in Japan,* says: *"The Government must act to break out of the vicious circle where the strong yen hits company profits, which in turn slows down investment leading to workers receiving lower bonuses and overtime payments."*

UK investors, he says, should consider investing in Japan through a separate unit or investment trust, not one that invests in a range of Asian countries. "Japan is a high-risk area offering little or no yield, which makes it unattractive for income-seekers. But if you are prepared to take a long-term view it should provide a reasonable return."

Additional research by Liz Edwards

LEADING UNIT TRUSTS INVESTING IN JAPAN

One year		Three years		Seven years	
Govett Jap Bear	119.70	Prudential Jap	180.60	Schroder Jap Sm Cos	219.64
Merc WT Jap Eqty Bear	118.05	S&P Jap Growth	171.03	Dunedin Jap Smlr Cos	202.13
Merc WT Jap Eqty Bull	89.78	Hill Samuel Jap Tech	166.02	Schroder Tokyo	168.61
Old Mutual Jap	88.37	PM Jap Growth	165.56	INVESCO Jap Smlr Cos	168.95
Hill Samuel Jap Tech	88.31	Schroder Tokyo	163.62	Gartmore Jap	164.11
Hill Samuel Jap Gen	87.54	Hill Samuel Jap Gen	161.66	Stewart Ivory Jap	155.61
NatWest Jap	87.23	Gartmore Jap	160.33	FP Jap Smlr Cos	154.67
Prudential Jap	87.17	London and Manch Jap	156.17	Fidelity Jap Smlr Cos	154.47
Leg & Genl Jap Ind Tr	86.80	Allied Dunbar Jap	155.24	KB Jap Special	154.33
Schroder Tokyo	86.78	Schrod Inst Jap Sm Cos	154.72	Prudential Jap	144.50
Sector average: 80.52 (85)		Sector average: 138.24 (80)		Sector average: 120.15 (56)	

£100 invested: offer-to-bid with net income re-invested. () Number of trusts in sector. Source: Micropal.

LEADING INVESTMENT TRUSTS INVESTING IN JAPAN

One year		Three years		Seven years	
Fleming Jap	86.27	Fleming Jap	166.21	Fleming Jap	168.04
BG Japan	82.62	JF Fledg Jap	148.06	GT Jap	153.51
Dunedin Jap	82.14	BG Jap	134.30	BG Shin Nippon	148.91
Edinburgh Jap	81.37	GT Jap	130.85	BG Jap	122.75
GT Jap	79.82	BG Shin Nippon	125.26		
Sector average: 78.73 (10)		Sector average: 140.94 (5)		Sector average: 147.80 (4)	

Value of £100 invested on a mid-market to mid-market basis with no charges taken into account.

TRUST WATCH

Hoping to discover stars of tomorrow

DISCOVERING tomorrow's stock market star is the dream of every investor. Sometimes it is down to pure chance and sometimes to diligent research. Mark Tyndall, manager of Ivory & Sime's new UK Discovery Investment Trust, is hoping for a bit of both.

The Discovery trust has raised £25 million from institutions and is now seeking a further £8 million from the public. Mr Tyndall will select up to 75 companies from about 900 that have a market worth of less than £50 million. The trust will have five independent directors headed by Sir James McKinnon, the former Director-General of Gas Supply.

As a capital growth trust, Discovery will pay only a "modest" dividend, if any. There is no minimum investment and when the shares start trading on the London Stock Exchange, Ivory & Sime will launch a low-cost monthly savings scheme for the trust. There is a free warrant with every five shares.

Mr Tyndall says: "We are looking for companies with a strong financial background and an ambitious management that have no public profile with the investing community. They are more likely to be based in the regions rather than London and the South East and they might be in the engineering business, general manufacturing, a niche retailer or the service sector. What we want to avoid are those firms which rely too heavily on just one product."

By investing in unknown companies, Mr Tyndall hopes that, as they grow, other fund managers will become interested, in turn pushing up the share price. But some market analysts believe that the small is beautiful investment theme has already been oversold and that smaller companies have already enjoyed the best of the economic recovery. Ivory & Sime says such companies stand at a discount to the main stock market and still offer value to investors.
Ivory & Sime: 0131 225 1357

ROBERT MILLER

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Insurers enjoy another stroke of luck

COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Once again, fortune, in the shape of a change in government policy, has smiled on the insurance industry. Just when endowment and pension sales were looking slow, along comes the reform of invalidity benefit, trailing endless selling opportunities in its wake.

Past experience, however, shows that insurance companies do not always use such strokes of luck wisely. The most noteable examples being the slimming down of Serps and the introduction of personal pensions.

This providential combination gave the insurers an entry into markets which had previously been closed to them, sometimes with very good reason. Public-sector workers, such as miners, police officers and nurses, were a case in point. Nevertheless, thousands of insurance salesmen went forth to do their bosses' bidding and duly increased customer numbers by millions. The result was a noisy scandal and a £3 billion compensation bill for bad advice.

The abolition of invalidity benefit and its replacement with incapacity benefit provides the perfect excuse to push permanent health insurance, often also known as income protection. This pays out if illness temporarily keeps you away from your employment, supplementing any state benefits. As we report on page 31, not only will incapacity benefit be considerably harder to claim, it will also be less generous.

As yet, the public is barely aware of the implications of these changes. But the insurers are summoning every accident and sickness statistic to their aid. The most chilling is that you are 14 times as likely to be incapacitated for six months or more during your working life as to die.

The likelihood that someone might try to sell you permanent health insurance in the near future should urge you to check what your employer would provide if you were absent for a long period.

This is a question you may not be asked, as a permanent health pitch does not require the completion of a "fact find" establishing your circumstances. Alarmingly, this whole area is outside the scope of the financial watchdogs.

In seeking to remind you that you may one day be ill or infirm, the insurance company will not necessarily be as concerned about your financial well-being, in sickness or in health.

As soon as Halifax customers have put their X on their voting forms for its merger with the Leeds, the society will prepare to kiss goodbye to the Xtra brand, a move that will cause sorrow to headline writers, for whom the phrase "a little Xtra", with its nudge-nudge connotations, has always come in handy.

Meanwhile, the society will be handling the complaints of those unhappy customers who, because they hold deposit, not share accounts, are not allowed to put an X on either the merger, or the conversion form. When opening their accounts, most had no idea that the words *share* and *deposit* were fraught with significance, a saver being a saver, after all.

The society should now work closely with the Treasury, which plans to give all investors equal status, to see if this disenfranchised group can be allowed to benefit from the free shares.

Caroline Merrell on divorce settlements

Couples start to divide pensions

Couples are going ahead and dividing pensions as part of their divorce agreement before the final shape of the legislation on pensions and divorce is known. Last month peers forced an amendment to the Pensions Bill requiring pensions to be divided on retirement.

The steps being taken by divorced couples follow a Court of Appeal decision that a divorced woman was entitled to a portion of her former husband's pension fund.

Ironically, the couple in the case, Douglas and Anne Brooks, were in court again this week as Mr Brooks sought to overturn the Court of Appeal's decision in the House of Lords. A final decision on the case, which was the subject of a two-day hearing this week, is expected in several weeks' time.

Already one divorced couple has reached an agreement under a county court's direction to split the husband's pension. Many may now follow suit. If the decision to divide Mr Brooks' pension is upheld by the House of Lords, it will end a six-year legal wrangle over a pension fund which is believed to be worth about £750,000.

Solicitors acting for Mr Brooks said that the court did not have the power to order a pension fund to be divided in this way and said Inland Revenue rules precluded the assignment of pensions benefits before Mr Brooks died.

They added that splitting pensions on divorce was the subject of the Pensions Bill currently going through Parliament and that it was up to the Government to decide. Mr Brooks' solicitor said: "It is up to Parliament to decide and it should not be dealt with case by case."

Mr Martin Pointer, the barrister acting for Mrs Brooks rejected the argument that the case was beyond the court's jurisdiction and that the passage of the Pensions Bill barred a ruling. Mr Pointer said: "It remains important that the court should have the power to deal with pension funds even if the Pensions Bill goes through."

Mr Pointer also poured scorn on the idea that dividing pensions in this way would cost the beleaguered pensions industry thousands of pounds. He said: "The cash in a money-purchase scheme can easily be quantified and in a final-salary scheme the amount can easily be defined." He claimed he had found an actuary in Scotland which could split a pension for £350.

Norman Russell, a solicitor from Paisner & Company, said assets in most divorce cases were the family home and the husband's pension. In reality, the wife usually ended up with the family home and no pension while the husband kept the pension. He said that the law had to reflect what was going on in society. "What is really going on is that one in three marriages are ending in divorce. Unless occupational pensions recognise what is going on they will wither."

The ruling could be potentially disastrous for public-sector pensions schemes run by the Government.

These unfunded schemes could be forced to pay out millions of pounds of benefits to former spouses of members. According to the Pensions Management Institute, which made fundamental recommendations to the Government on pensions reform, this change could cost the unfunded public sector schemes up to £500 million per annum.

The Pensions Bill will be debated in the House of Commons after Easter. MPs are expected to come under new pressure to recommend pensions should be split on divorce.

Court orders split

A COUNTY court in Blackburn has already ruled that a divorced couple's pension should be equally split between them (Caroline Merrell writes)

Michael and Anne Pilkington, both 49, ended a 30-year marriage last year. By mutual agreement, Mr Pilkington, a majority shareholder in the company that he runs, is to give half his £202,000 pension fund to his former wife. The equal split was coincidental. "She would have received the same amount even if he had got £250,000 as his share," says Robert Graham, a Manchester actuary involved with the case.

The pension policy, held by Scottish Amicable is likely to be split in the next couple of weeks. Karen Midgley, of Blackburn solicitor Farley's, said that she thought that Mrs Pilkington would transfer the money to another scheme. She will be able to start drawing her pension at any time after her 50th birthday.

The ruling ends an acrimonious dispute between the former husband and wife over Mr Pilkington's assets. Mr Pilkington was superficially wealthy, but had argued that the recession and a poor property market meant that most of his money was tied up, and the assets unsaleable at anything other than an unacceptably low price.

ADRIAN BROOKS

Anne Brooks is still fighting for an equal division of her husband's pension

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As government benefit cuts bite deeper and middle management incomes are

PETER TREVNOR

Tony Wood was told his family would receive benefit if his wife gave up her job

Stop work and you can be far better off

Sir Brian Pitman, chief executive of Lloyds Bank, sent a shiver through the ranks of middle management this week with the prediction that 75,000 more banking jobs would have disappeared by the end of the century.

Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-operative Bank, tightened the screw by forecasting that the jobs fall-out would be at least double Sir Brian's figure. This was in addition to the 90,000-plus that have already vanished since 1989.

Lloyds tried hard to damp down the furore caused by Sir Brian's remark, stating variously that he had been speaking at a private luncheon, that he had been quoted out of context and that he had made similar predictions in the past. But it did not say he had been misquoted.

It all sounds like very bad news for middle England, where parents have, for generations, confidently ushered offspring into occupations such as teaching, banking and the civil service under the fond belief that, while not necessarily the most exciting or lucrative of careers, at least they were safe. As white collar unemployment grows, the safety net provided by the state continues to shrink. State benefits are geared increasingly to help people with absolutely nothing, rather than those who have managed to secure a few possessions for themselves and their families and are then suddenly deprived of the means to service basic commitments. Cuts in income support for mortgage interest payments, due to bite in October, are a case in point.

Insecurity grows for white-collar workers as safety net shrinks

When Tony Wood of Perterfield, Hampshire lost his job recently, he assumed that the Department of Social Security would be able help his family while he sought alternative employment.

He was wrong. He cannot claim unemployment benefit because he was technically classed as self-employed. The family is not eligible for income support because his wife, Deborah, has a job. Among other things, this means no state help with mortgage-interest payments.

Mrs Wood does not earn a particularly large salary — certainly not enough to cover the family's outgoings — but her income is just too high for the family to qualify for Family Credit*, a system intended to bridge the gap between income support and a living wage.

Most galling of all, if Mrs Wood gave up her job, the family would be better off at a stroke. She says: "We would then be able to claim income supplement, which includes free dental treatment, free school lunches, help with the mortgage, council tax and several other benefits."

She says she is tempted to stop working, but knows she could never bring herself to do so. "We may have to struggle on my salary for some time to come. We will accrue huge debts while we cannot pay bills." The family has been told it may still qualify for council tax relief. But that is all.

The system has also worked against Alan Chapman of Lichfield, Staffordshire. When Mr Chapman was forced to wind up his specialist Aston Martin repair business recently after 20 years, he expected to qualify for state redundancy benefits in the same way as the rest of his staff.

But company directors may receive payment in this way only if their status as a company employee has been formally established. Mr Chapman had never seen the need to do this. "I was paid weekly and took set holidays like everyone else. I filed things or swept the forecourt if I had to, as well as taking care of the administrative side and writing cheques. I'm not the boardroom type."

According to the Department of Employment's redundancy payments service, he does not qualify under the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 because he had never "entered into, or worked under, a contract of employment".

This decision cost Mr Chapman £5,508, and he now intends to appeal to an industrial tribunal.

*The amount of Family Credit paid depends upon income (of both partners if applicable), the number of children, and their ages. A family which, like the Woods, has two children at primary school, will not qualify if its total weekly income exceeds £166.

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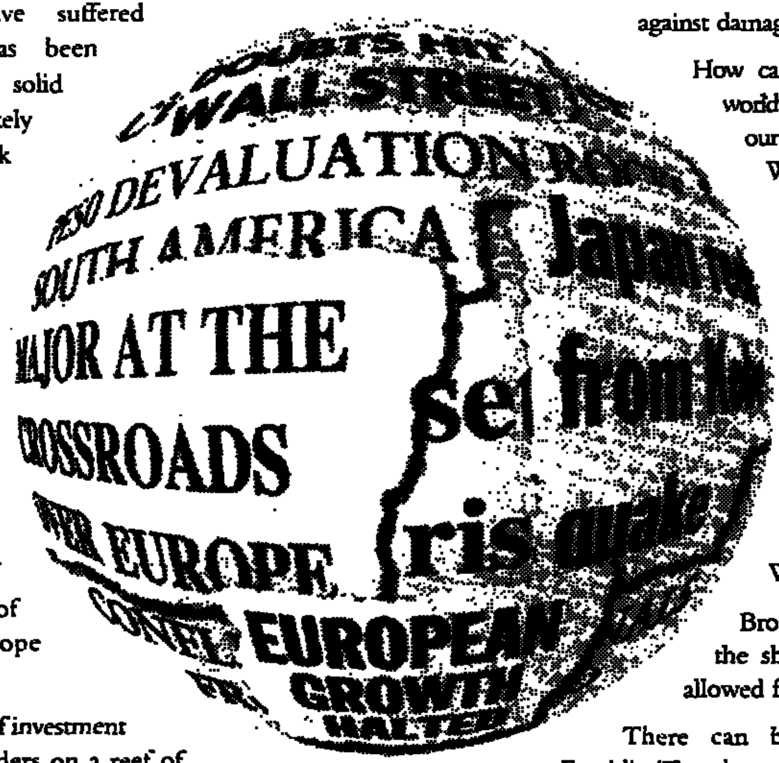
LIZ DOLAN



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China sits waiting for a new leader to emerge. And nowhere can be sure to avoid the impact of the new regime. In Europe, political confusion is the order of the day. Both Great Britain and Italy see their current political order either threatened or in tatters as a result of crises of confidence or scandals. But Europe has its share of world class companies, and the prospect of vigorous competition as Eastern Europe re-builds.

North America, too, has had its own share of investment inertia as the Clinton administration founders on a reef of unpopularity and allegations, but US companies are renowned for their ability to react positively to competition and opportunity.

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And in the Far East, political uncertainty in North Korea continues to cast a shadow over parts of the region. Nonetheless, the emerging economies on the Pacific Rim still contain some of the most exciting and ambitious companies to be found anywhere in the world - not least in the extremely attractive high-tech sector.

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threatened by massive job cuts and health fears, can insurers fill the gap?

Health policies may damage your finances

Concern is mounting that the reform of state invalidity benefits, which come into force next Thursday (see below) could result in the widespread mis-selling of permanent-health insurance (PHI) and its close relative, the income protection plan.

These pay monthly income to policyholders unable to work for long periods because of illness, or incapacity. Although some employers arrange long-term cover for staff forced to stay away from work, many will provide sick pay for 28 weeks. After that, workers must hope that they can make a successful claim for incapacity benefit.

In the past, most PHI policies have been sold to the self-employed. The reduction in state benefits means that the employed have become the new market.

> Reduced state benefit means the employed are now the new market

Penny O'Nions, of De Havilland Financial Management, an independent adviser, said: "There is, of course, likely to be some mis-selling, and many people will get bad advice. What makes the problem worse is that virtually everyone will now need some form of private cover."

PHI premiums from the same company can vary widely, depending on sex, age, health and occupation. For example, premiums for a standard £1,000 monthly benefit policy for a man aged 35 from Prime Health, the insurer, are from £7.70 to £19.20 a month, depending on occupation alone.

This complexity can cause problems with poor advice. Dorothy Rickman of the Insurance Ombudsman Bureau, which specialises in PHI claims, cites cases where, for example, people have paid for a higher level of benefit than the policy actually allows them to claim. Most policies only allow people to cover three-quarters of their income up to £45,000 or £50,000, less any state benefit, and one-third of income over this ceiling.

Other potential problems include:

☐ Policies sold to people on low incomes. The policy will pay out little more than the state benefit, so the cover is virtually worthless.

☐ Policies sold to people who already have adequate cover from their employer and from overlapping policies, such as redundancy and sickness cover from their mortgage lender.

☐ Policy holders being unaware that their premiums may be increased after they buy the policy.

☐ Women who take a career break, not realising that they invalidate their cover if they fail to notify their insurer of their change of occupation.

Concern about potential poor advice is exacerbated because most PHI policies fall outside the regulatory net.

The Personal Investment Authority, the main regulator, has still to decide whether to extend its scope to cover non-investment policies, such as PHI and term assurance, sold by its members. Even if it does make this change, it would be powerless to prevent unregulated companies being set up to sell these products. Peter Timberlake, of Legal and General, thinks this is unlikely to be a big problem, but says: "The hope must be that no new cowboy companies will come into the market and sell irresponsibly, although there is always a risk of this."

Claims on PHI policies are another fraught area. One insurer, who did not want to be named, said that fraud was "rife", citing the case of someone claiming for a back injury caught on video moonlighting as a removal man.

JEAN EAGLESHAM

INVALIDITY BENEFIT

STATE invalidity benefits are being cut and become taxable on April 13 — a move expected to save £1.5 billion by 1997.

☐ State sickness benefit (payable to the self-employed during the first 28 weeks of incapacity) and invalidity benefit (payable to both the employed and the self-employed after the first 28 weeks of incapacity) will be replaced by a new incapacity benefit.

☐ The benefits will also be much harder to claim — 220,000 existing claimants could lose their benefit, and about 30 per cent of people who apply for benefit in future are expected to be turned away.

☐ The basic long-term benefit for new claimants, payable after the first 28 weeks of time off work because of illness, will be cut from an average of £150 a week to just £52.50, and this income will be taxable.

☐ The current earnings-related top-up has been abolished.

☐ The medical test for obtaining benefit has also been made much tougher. Claimants will, for example, have to prove they are unable to follow any occupation, not just their current occupation.

☐ Rather than relying on a GP's note certifying the claimant is unfit to do their own job, the Government is introducing a new medical test to assess if the claimant is fit to do any job. The test will be run by benefits agency assessors, and must be undertaken by about half the 1.5 million people who are now on invalidity benefit (anyone aged 58 or over who has been claiming benefit since December 1993 will not have to take the test).

JAMES CHEADLE

Michael Stanley's health insurer stopped paying him

An unfriendly move from the Provident

MICHAEL STANLEY had a year-and-a-half fight to get Friends Provident to keep paying benefit on his permanent-health insurance policy, despite medical evidence that his claim was still justified (Jean Eaglesham writes).

Mr Stanley took early retirement from teaching in 1986 on his GP's advice, after undergoing heart-bypass surgery and subsequent angina attacks.

He was pleased to find that his employer had a Friends Provident group permanent-health insurance policy. This covered him until his normal retirement age, as long as he remained medically unfit to teach.

The insurer paid out on the policy for the next six years. In June 1993 a cardiologist appointed by Friends Provident found that Mr Stanley's ECG test results were normal, but concluded that his angina was induced by anxiety and stress and so he should still be considered unable to return to teaching. Based on this report, Friends Provident stopped paying the monthly benefit in September 1993, saying that there was "insufficient evidence to support the claim".

Mr Stanley appealed to the insurance ombudsman in April of last year. This February, the ombudsman found in his favour, saying that "I share your concern that the insurer has chosen to discontinue payments despite the clear conclusion in the [medical] report."

Friends Provident were ordered to start paying the benefit again and pay Mr Stanley £1,000 for the "stress and anxiety you have inevitably experienced" as well as back payments of benefit, plus interest.

While he is pleased with the ombudsman's decision, Mr Stanley worries that Friends Provident may stop the payment again in future.

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T/8/4/1

DIY assessment doesn't always add up, says **Liz Dolan**

Revenue's taxing problem

Basic errors were discovered in almost half of all tax forms filled in *during a recent test run of the new* US-style system of self-assessment (SA), scheduled to start operating over here from next *year.*

In the trial, conducted last winter by the Inland Revenue, 1,000 employees and self-employed volunteers were asked to resubmit their previous year's tax returns using the new method. *But, in spite of* showing a level of commitment and interest well above that of normal taxpayers, 46 *per cent* of the guinea pigs still managed to make simple mathematical errors, such as adding up wrongly, or *transposing* figures.

Members of the sample group could reasonably have *been* expected to make fewer errors than average as they appear to have been a most *unusual collection of people.* First, they were more than willing to wade through old *accounts, fill in forms and* submit to three long telephone interviews purely as a favour *to the Inland Revenue.*

Second, unlike the average self-employed person, who waits until the last minute to submit tax returns, these people were selected because they had all submitted their returns *months before the deadline.*

The Revenue says that the mistakes they made were easily picked up by its checking *procedure and that nine out of* ten were corrected without reference to the form-filler. But: "We are obviously not *satisfied that only 50 per cent* got it right." It is now seeking ways of improving matters.

The next stage in the build-*up to SA started on Thursday* with the launch of a "live" trial in Leicester. This involves 5,000 taxpayers, their professional advisers and 27 employers, including Next and Leicester City Council. The tax affairs of these volunteers will be dealt with as though SA already applies.

An advertising campaign to publicise the forthcoming *changes starts in early June.* The new system will apply to anyone who fills in tax returns. *It will require nine* million people, including the self employed and many pensioners, to undertake much of *the work currently done by the* taxman. The Inland Revenue says the intention is to create a fairer system by moving everyone on to a "*current year*" tax basis. At the moment, some, including the self employed, are taxed on previous year's earnings, *while others pay tax* as they earn.

People who become self-employed this year will be put on a "current year" taxation basis right from the beginning. Next year, they will be joined by all other taxpayers.

Nearly half of the 1,000 who took part made at least one mistake

The Government is quite obviously hoping to make huge *savings on its own staff* salaries. But the apparent inability of the average taxpay*er to use a calculator, or copy a* line of figures correctly, means it should think hard before *wielding the jobs knife too* enthusiastically.

According to the results of a *survey conducted recently on* behalf of Kingston Smith, a firm of accountants, nearly four in five of the people who *will be required to work out* their own tax have never heard of the new system. When the situation was ex*plained to them, more than a* quarter said they were either worried, or very worried, about their ability to calculate their own tax.

"The Government believes that the new system will help to streamline the Inland Revenue and make *it more* efficient by cutting down on a large volume of routine paperwork and cal*culations,*" said *tax partner,* Andrew Shaw. "That may well be the case, but in many ways it just means shifting the burden elsewhere."

The Revenue says 85 per cent of participants in its own *trial last winter had* not requested help from the tax office when filling in their forms. "Overall, the taxpayers *felt confident that they would* be able to cope with self assessment without seeking *professional advice,*" it says.

Nine in ten of the forms were completed to a sufficient*ly high standard for staff to be* able to process them, a result which "compares well with *completion of current* returns".

SIMON WALKER

Frequent travellers can manage their money from abroad

Staying ahead when overseas

Spending extended periods abroad, once the *preserve of the rich and* adventurous, is nowadays quite commonplace. Some of those absent from these shores for months are simply on holiday, others on business. But both have the same prob*lem: managing their money* while away from home.

Currently most rely on their *credit or debit cards,* or use eurocheques in Europe to pay for goods or services. Now for frequent travellers who earn more than £30,000, the US Citibank is proposing an alternative to these arrangements, the Citibank Account.

Those who do travel frequently, can pay their bills, *check their balances from* anywhere in the world, or transfer money between ac*counts, via a 24-hour* telephone banking service. They can access their account with the Citicard, a cash and cheque card that can be used in any ATM with the Visa sign. You can also add foreign currency accounts to your basic account.

There are no charges for any *service, provided the the* running balance is kept above £2,000; otherwise, there is a *£10-a-month* fee. Interest of 4.5 per cent to 6.5 per cent is paid on balances of £2,000 or more. On smaller balances, the rate is 0.5 per cent. There is a £500 free overdraft and your own personal banker.

British banks do not offer anything on this scale. But NatWest customers who earn £25,000 or more and are home-owners can apply for its Gold Plus service with extras such as free travel insurance and Air Miles. It costs £80 per year and offers a free unsecured over*draft limit of £10,000. With*drawing cash costs 1.5 per cent with a minimum charge of £1.50. Money can be withdrawn abroad on any ATM on the Visa network.

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

APRs — misleading, misused or just plain misunderstood?

From Mr Warren Edwardes

Sir, You report ("What is the true cost of a loan?", Weekend Money, April 1) that a leading independent financial adviser finds that the annual percentage rate "is a completely worthless experiment now", the deputy director of a West Country trading standards office says that "it is wholly flawed — it stinks", a leading building society finds that "the figures now mean little to anybody", and an even larger society finds "the whole APR system a nonsense", while a consumer watchdog says that the situation is "absolutely outrageous". Weighty opinions, indeed!

May I suggest that APRs are not inherently misleading — sometimes misused, but often badly explained.

The APR was designed in 1977 to provide consumers with a "true rate" benchmark. It represents an equivalent rate with interest payable annually in arrears. Thus mortgages with interest payable monthly, car loans with interest calculated on the initial amount and no allowance for the monthly reducing debt and deposits with simple interest payable only at the end of a five-year term have to quote the equivalent true annualised rate.

The old system of assuming the current variable rate for the remainder of the 25-year term was misleading. Assumptions on what happens to interest rates can be made well after the Devon cows come home. Also, few fixed-rate mortgagees intend to keep to the full term. Under the new method of assuming the fixed rate over the whole term, the borrower has a feel for the APR over the fixed term. S/he can then decide on a likely term, say seven years and make various assumptions on the average variable APR over the remaining term, say 7 per cent, 10 per cent and 13 per cent. Averaging of the fixed and variable APRs over the seven-year term provides a good approximation of the composite APR.

Yours faithfully,
WARREN EDWARDES
(Managing Director),
Delphi Risk Management Ltd,
3 Hyde Park Steps,
St George's Fields,
W2.

How the Co-op strikes gold with a few days' extra interest

From Mr Roy Farrant

Sir, When it was introduced back in 1991, the Co-op Gold Visa card was advertised as "free for life", with "up to 46 days' interest-free credit". A good idea, I thought, so I applied for one and have used it occasionally since.

Having twice recently been charged interest for paying just a day or two late, I started to try and find out where things were slipping up. The first thing I noticed was that the cheques I sent in the post to the Co-Op Visa appeared *on* my Visa account *after* they appeared on my bank current account.

Several letters later, Co-op Visa have now confirmed that "payments to a Visa account are processed *on the day they are received* ... However, the actual action of crediting a Visa account can take three to four days ... The date your payment is credited to your Visa account is the last day of processing as *we allow sufficient time for your cheque to be cleared through your current account before we credit your Visa account.*"

In other words, without telling me in advance, Co-op Visa hang on to my money for a few days just to make sure it clears before giving me the benefit of it on my Visa account. A few days' extra interest on the side, as it were, never mind the delayed crediting to my Visa account and the subsequent extra interest charged. And they do it for all the other tens of thousands of customers they have as well. Multiply all this effect together and you come to a very tidy sum. Smart move, Co-op. I wondered how they were paying for their interest-free promise. When are the others going to catch on to this?

Yours faithfully,
ROY D. FARRANT,
13 Tenby Avenue,
Kenton,
Harrow,
Middlesex.

Aggrieved C&G investors can now formulate compensation claims

From Dr R.T. Parr

Sir, Following the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society meeting and the revelation of the money that is to be allocated to investors, which was reported in *The Times* of April 1.

The disappointed investors now have a figure to put on their loss. As many investors, like my wife, have lost large sums by following advice from the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society to change accounts, we can now start the process of claiming.

In our case we have lost £7,000. The Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society insisted that we close one account and open two more when we wanted to hive off a trust account. This loss is the direct result of bad advice, in our case insisted upon, and The Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society can be held responsible.

I suggest that investors can now pursue their claims for compensation through the Ombudsman or through the courts. The rules have been changed once and can be changed again.

We must congratulate Mr Longhurst on his forthcoming directorship of Lloyds and share options.

Yours faithfully,
R. T. PARR,
The Barn House,
Broughton,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire.

☐ *Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.*

Hidden cost of remortgaging

From Miss Jane Hern

Sir, There has been much in the press recently about the current potential for remortgaging, given the very competitive rates offered by some of the lenders.

There are, however, some hidden costs. In order to pursue a remortgage application with another lender, it is necessary to obtain a mortgage reference from the existing lender.

Barclays Bank are currently charging £58.75 to provide such a reference — which strikes me as being particularly extortionate and perhaps designed to deter or penalise those who have the audacity to cotemplate transferring a mortgage away from Barclays!

Yours faithfully,
JANE HERN,
24 Parkfields,
SW15.

Water rising in Three Valleys

From Mr Keith Cresswell

Sir, My 1995/96 account from Three Valleys Water shows an 8.48 per cent increase on last year, and brings the combined three-year increase to 23.55 per cent.

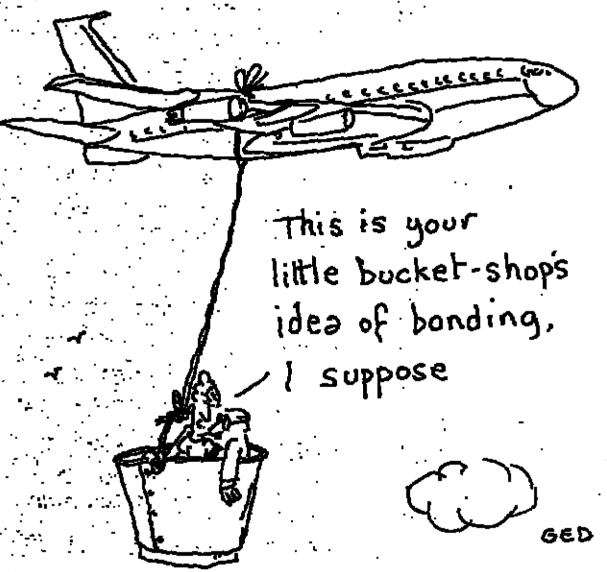
How does this three-year level compare with that of other water companies and with inflation over the same period?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH CRESSWELL,
43 Derwent Road,
Harpenden,
Hertfordshire.

Check it out before you check in

Conal Gregory

with some tips to give peace of mind on holiday


This is your little bucket-shop's idea of bonding, I suppose
GED

The collapse of a holiday company is as constant a feature of summer as air traffic control restrictions and lost luggage. But, strangely, the sight of holidaymakers stranded abroad does not always remind travellers to check on the health of their tour operator.

The EC Package Travel Directive requires travel companies either to retain funds in a trust account, or to hold a bond as a financial guarantee for customers.

Air passengers for example, should be covered by the Atol scheme, which over a two-year period to March 1994 gave refunds to 150,000 passengers and repatriated about 40,000 at a cost of £23.4 million.

Before you pay a deposit you should check that your company's licence is current and that its membership of the trade body administering the bond scheme is up to date. Brochures can be up to two years old and, an operator who was once a member, may have left the trade body in that time.

☐ Abta (Association of British Travel Agents), 55 Newman Street, London W1P 4AM (0891 202520) has 7,415 agents and operators in membership. Last year 54 of its agent members and 16 tour operators failed. It receives 30,000 calls to check on bonding each year. Calls to check membership cost 49p a minute.

☐ Abto (Association of Bonded Travel Organisers), 23 St James's Square, London, SW1Y 4JH (0171 930 7714), has 47 members, each with a separate bond based on the level of turnover. The Abto scheme protects the non-flight part of a holiday, with Atol covering the air side.

☐ Aito (Association of Independent Tour Operators), 133a St Margaret's Road, Twickenham, London TW1 1RG (0181 744 9280), covers 150-plus specialist operators. All must be bonded to be a member.

☐ CAA (Civil Aviation Authority), 45-49 Kingsway, London WC2B 6TE (0171 832 6600/5620) issues Atols, (Air Travel Organisers' Licences). All travel firms selling air holidays, and some flights, must have these by law. Each firm has to lodge a bond with the CAA, which uses the money to pay compensation if the firm goes under. Look for the firm's Atol number in the logo, or check with the CAA.

☐ CPT (Confederation of Passenger Transport), Sardinia House, 52 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3LZ (0171 831 7546), has 1,500 members, but only 102 are bonded. Check if you see the inverted triangle logo where the company is bonded, as this may be with another trade association. Its last failure was Charter Coach of Marwick in January 1994. CPT was formerly known as the Bus and Coach Council.

☐ FTO (Federation of Tour Operators), 170 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1YE (0273 477722) has 20 members comprising the biggest package operators in the UK. Massive failures since 1967 are Clarksons, Laker, ILG (Intasun's parent group) and Best Travel last November. FTO was formerly the Tour Operators' Study Group.

☐ PSA (Passenger Shipping Association), 9-10 Market Place, London W1N 7AG (0171 436 2449), covers cruise and ferry holidays and reports no failures.

Be on guard against such illegal terms as "agent for Abta", which does not give you any protection. If you use your credit card, many issuers will honour payments made directly to the tour operator, which may be a speedier form of redress.

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To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR
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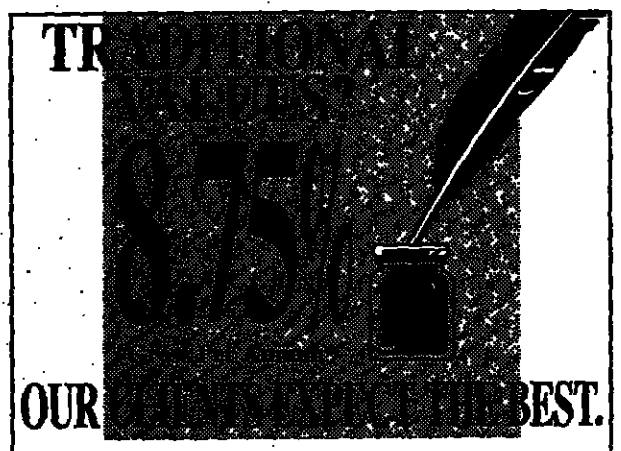

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Helping the aged to leap tax hurdles

ALTHOUGH personal allowances are going up for the first time in three years, pensioners could lose out from April 5. Several million people, many of whom are pensioners, are owed £500 million in tax on bank and building society savings because their income is too low to pay tax (Morag Preston writes).

Many underpay or overpay tax as a result of changes in the married couples' tax allowance, and it has been estimated that 50 per cent of their tax codes are incorrect. Pensioners facing multiple tax problems in the new tax year should arm themselves with the 1995-6 edition of a booklet from Help the Aged called *Check Your Tax*.

This 15-page advice booklet shows pensioners how to work out what part of their income is taxable, what tax allowances they have and how much they will eventually have to pay.

A free booklet is available at Help the Aged shops or by sending an SAE to Tax. Information Department, Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London, EC1R 0BE.

A video guide to stress-free taxes is the couch-potato's alternative to a booklet. The *1995-96 Tax Guide*, by Purple Training, presented by Moira Elms, a tax expert from Coopers & Lybrand, the accountant, demonstrates the best ways to cut your tax bill.

Ms Elms interviews employees, the self-employed, and the retired, about cutting tax through allowances and tax relief including spreading income between spouses, minimising tax while paying off a mortgage and maximising gifts to charity through the use of tax relief. The 60-minute video costs £24.99, and comes with a 115-page book. Available from book and video stores, or call 0181-742 0607.

Tax help on the Internet is the interactive alternative for cyberspace cadets. Tax Net, the Internet tax site, was set up by Purple Training, Ernst & Young, the accountant, and *Inside Money*, the magazine to bring free tax advice online.

Common queries are answered, and users can pose their own questions. There is also help in filling out tax forms.

Users are able to access the tax site at the World Wide Web. Their cyberspeak address is http://www.purple.co.uk/purplet/tax.html. The Tax Frequently Asked Questions can be accessed by emailing faq@purple.co.uk.

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at April 5, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	5,000	AIG Life	5.55
	10,000	AIG Life	5.75
	20,000	AIG life	5.85
	50,000	AIG Life	5.90
	100,000	AIG Life	5.95
	250,000	AIG Life	6.00
2 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.30
	20,000	AIG Life	6.35
	50,000	AIG life	6.40
	100,000	AIG Life	6.45
	250,000	AIG Life	6.50
3 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.40
	3,000	Eurolife	7.00
4 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.50
	50,000	Gan Life	6.60
5 Years	1,000	Premium Life	6.60
	3,000	Eurolife	7.20
	5,000	Eurolife	7.30
	10,000	Eurolife	7.40
	25,000	Eurolife	7.50

Source: Chamberlain de Broë 01225 483636. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Vary terms. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	1st Class Acc	Postal	£1,000	6.20	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Instant	£2,000	6.25	Yly
Birmingham Midshires 0645 720721	First Class	Postal	£10,000	6.40	Yly
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Go Direct	Instant	£20,000	6.70	Yly

FIXED RATES	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Clydesdale Bank 0800 445265	*Prime Plus*	1yr bond	£5,000	8.00	F/OM
Coventry BS 01203 839333	Fixed Rate Bond	31.3.97	£25,000	8.30	F/Yly
Bradford&Bingley BS 01274 555310	Fixed Rate Bond	14.5.98	£2,500	8.50	F/Yly
Chelsea BS 0800 272505	*3 Year Fixed*	31.3.98	£5,000	8.50	F/Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744500		5 year	£8,300	8.50	F/Yly
Hinckley & Rugby BS 0800 774499		5 year	£3,000 A	7.65	Yly
Market Harborough BS 01858 463244		5 year	£9,000	7.75	Yly
Holmesdale BS 01737 245716		5 year	£500	7.50	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C
Alliance & Leicester 0500 900250	Visa	1.375%	16.90%	£10 E

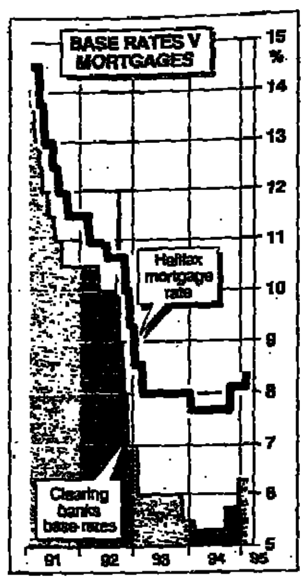
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

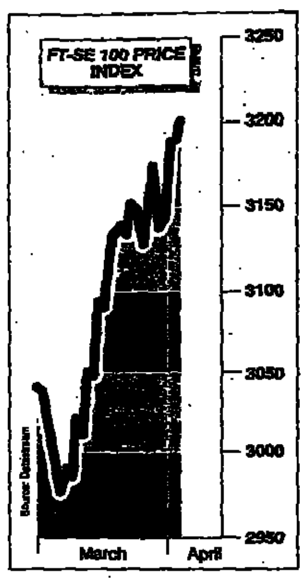
	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Clydesdale Bank 0141 223 2216	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33
Midland Bank 0345 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Alliance&Leicester 0116 255 5555	15.9%HI	£115.74	£103.77

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 665)





	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investment £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c*	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-500	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond*	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.86			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	0141636260[illegible]
8th Index Linked†	3.00		-	100-10,000	8day	0191386490[illegible]
Pensnrs Bond S2	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000	60day	01253766151

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble Guaranteed when held for 5 years 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings Taxable but paid in full*

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equit Lfe	Level	£10,599	£11,645	£12,984
Can Life	Level	£10,556	£11,710	£13,276
Sn Lfe Ca	Level	£10,621	£11,652	£13,011
MGM Asrnce	Level	£10,659	£11,715	£13,161
Generali	Level	£10,692	£11,706	£13,032

SINGLE LIFE		Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Nrch Union	Level	£9,922	£10,641	£11,714
Prudential	Level	£9,814	£10,538	£11,806
Can Life	Level	£9,739	£10,563	£11,778
Generali	Level	£9,805	£10,636	£11,792
MGM Asrnce	Level	£9,927	£10,670	£11,779

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)		Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Nrwch Uni	Level	£9,606	£10,143	£10,924
Can Life	Level	£9,335	£9,979	£10,897
Prudential	Level	£9,429	£9,989	£10,779
MGM Asrnce	Level	£9,621	£10,226	£11,095
Generali	Level	£9,463	£10,067	£10,906

Source: Annuity Direct (071 375 1175)

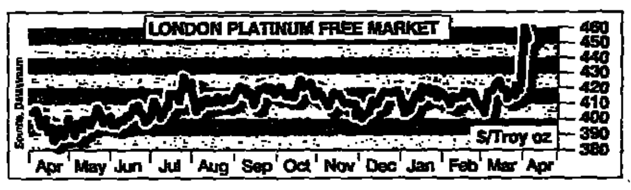
Compiled by Morag Preston

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	89.50	10.436	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	11.625%	113.00	10.288	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	125.00	10.398	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	127.50	10.533	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	123.25	10.570	100.42	1,000
Cheltenham & Glos	11.750%	116.75	10.065	100.96	50,000
Coventry	12.125%	115.00	10.524	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	104.50	11.246	100.25	10,000
Halifax	8.750%	88.00	9.937	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	118.75	10.009	100.28	50,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	136.00	10.017	100.00	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	13.375%	126.75	10.553	100.23	1,000
Newcastle	10.750%	102.625	10.473	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	121.25	10.363	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	12.625%	122.00	10.413	100.14	1,000
Skipton	12.875%	122.00	10.554	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.6750%	103.00	100.00	1,000
Cheshire	*9.50156%*	*100.50*	*100.00*	1,000

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source ABN AMRO Hoare Govett - 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Natnl & Provincial *01274 733444*	2.95	neg	90	5.5% discount for 12 months
Britannia 0800 526350	2.95	neg	80	5.49% discount for 12 months
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	2.49	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.5.96
Banks				
Abbey National 0800 555100	3.49	neg	75	4.85% discount to 31.5.96
Lloyds Local branch	3.60	£60k+	60	4.75% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Scarborough 0800 590547	1.00	£25-100k	95	7.45%dsc-6m 2%d-6m,.5%d-12m
Hinckley & Rugby 0455 251234	1.25	to £150k	70	7.14% disc-9mns
Yorkshire 0274 740740	1.44	£25-£150k	95	7% disc-6 mnths 3% disc-6 mnths
Banks				
First Direct 0800 242424	3.29	neg	50	4.10% discount for 12 mnths
HYPO - MSL 0344 394095	3.39	£15-100k £100k	95	5.10% discount to 1.5.96

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Hinckley&Rugby 0455 251 234	1.25	to 150k	70	7.14% discount for 9 mnths
Brad & Bingley 0800 252 993	3.15	£30k+	75	5.30% discount for 12 mnths
Skipton 0800 590545	2.29	to £150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
B of Scotland 0132 556 8555	3.94	£15k-150k	95	4.50% discount to 31.1.96
Lloyds Local Branch	3.60	£60K+	95	4.75% for 1 year

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. *Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.*

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	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE *Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS. 0171 538 8800*				
Balanced	457.60	484.30	+4.10	...
UK Equity	582.80	616.90	+6.00	...
Property	490.00	518.60	+0.40	...
Fixed Interest	*313.10*	*331.40*	+2.70	..
Money	253.40	268.20	+0.20	...
International	364.60	385.90	+4.40	..
ABBEY LIFE *Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL* *01202 292373*				
Property Fd Inc	279.40	294.20		
-do- Acc	527.70	555.50		
Equity Fd Inc	171.40	180.50	+3.40	0.0
-do- Acc	228.60	240.70	+4.50	0.0
Selective Fd	495.00	521.10	+5.40	0.0
Money Fd	382.60	402.80	+0.40	
Prop Fd Ser 4	411.30	433.00		
Equity Ser 4	218.20	229.70	+3.40	
Man Ser 4	657.90	692.60	+5.90	0.0
Conv Ser 4	*332.50*	*350.00*	-0.40	
Money Ser 4	332.10	349.60	+0.30	
Fixed Int Ser 4	347.20	365.50	+2.00	0.0
American Ser 4	486.10	511.70	+0.30	0.0
High Inc Ser 4	678.50	714.20	+9.00	0.0
In Fixed Int Ser 4	210.80	221.90	+2.40	0.0
Japan Ser 4	331.70	349.20	-0.60	0.0
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	£15.30	£16.10	+24.50	
European Fd Acc	*266.10*	*285.30*	+8.30	
Fixed Int Acc	506.40	533.00	+3.00	
Gtd Money Acc	338.50	356.30	+0.20	
Intl Managed Acc	589.40	620.90	+10.20	
Int Fxd Int Acc	334.90	352.50	[illegible]	
Japan Fund	*243.70*	*256.50*	+2.10	...
N American Acc	321.70	338.60	+4.40	
Prop Fd Acc	*445.20*	*468.40*	+1.30	
Multiple Inv Acc	£10.14	£10.68	+14.70	
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL *01793 514514*				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	376.90	396.70	+0.20	..
Equity Acc	£13.92	£14.66	+16.20	
Property Acc	585.00	615.90	-0.10	
Far East Acc	291.50	306.90	-2.10	
Managed Capital	*519.50*	*547.20*	+7.50	
-do- Acc	£10.71	£11.28	+9.50	

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	178.70	189.00	+2.50	...
Euro Opportunity	210.50	222.70	+6.30	...
North Amer Opp	162.80	172.20	-1.20	...
Far East Opp	175.90	186.10	-0.70	..
Grth Prop Ser 1	127.60	134.40	...	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	181.90	192.40	-0.10	...
Fixed Int	*188.90*	*199.80*	-0.20	.
Cash	158.20	167.40	+0.10	...
Overseas	174.50	184.60	+1.90	..
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	321.60	338.60	+2.80	..
UK Equity	*561.10*	*590.70*	+8.80	.
Property	268.30	282.50	-0.10	.
Money Market	254.90	268.40	+0.20	..
Fixed Interest	297.70	313.40	+0.20	..
Japan	340.10	358.00	-4.90	...
North America	147.60	155.40	-0.20	...
International	268.80	283.00	+3.10	.
European	268.60	282.80	+7.80	..
Far East	122.20	128.70	-0.50	.
CANADA LIFE 24 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA *01707 51122*				
Equity Growth	271.80			
Managed	319.50	336.40	+1.20	
Property	238.20	250.80		
Gilt & Fxd Int	240.10	252.80	+0.50	
Equity	355.10	373.80	+1.20	..
Cash	220.60	232.30		
CLife Euro Mgd	370.70	390.30	+8.90	..
CLife Intl Fd	332.50	350.10	-1.60	.
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	168.20	177.10		
Managed Fund	594.20	625.50	+7.20	...
Equity Fund	343.70	361.80	+3.00	.
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	282.20	297.10	+3.60	.
Ruby	166.40	175.20	+1.90	.
Emerald	145.50	153.20	-0.90	
Equity	324.10	341.20	+4.70	.
Property	233.50	245.80		
Gilt & Fixed Int	202.50	213.20	+1.50	
Indexed Secs	168.40	177.30	+1.80	
Cash	*190.00*	*199.60*	+0.40	
Nth American	221.50	233.20	+1.20	..
Far East	302.40	318.40	+0.20	

Equities close below their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MINING

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MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
347	335	Abbott Mead	347		2.7	18.1
310	276	Adscene	290		3.0	10.2
29½	22	Aegis Gp	25½	+ 1		
7½	2½	Allied Radio	2½			35.9
13	13	BBB Design	13		5.8	16.7
190	155	Barbour Index	187			
6½	5	Bindale	5½			
325	320	Black (A&C)	325		5.6	

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
98	75	BWD1	82	- 2	5.7	8.9
132	126	Baltic Pict	129		2.9	
78	53	Barry Bck Nol	53		12.0	8.0
157	148	Biotec Inv	152			

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BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
101¼	101⅛	Exch 10¼% 1995	101⅛		10.14	6.29
104¼	103⅛	Treas 12¾% 1995	103⅝		12.30	6.57
108¼	105⅝	Treas 14% 1996	105⅝	..	13.28	6.82
109¾	108¾	Treas 15¼% 1996	108¾	1	14.07	7.09
107½	106¼	Exch 13¼% 1996	106⅛		12.45	7.06
103⅞	103⅛	Conv 10% 1996	103⅝	+ ⅛	9.64	7.45
98⅛	97⅛	Treas 7% 1997	98⅛	+ ⅛	7.11	7.71
109⅝	108¼	Treas 13¼% 1997	108⅛	+ ⅛	12.13	7.59
105⅝	104⅞	Exch 10½% 1997	104⅝	+ ⅛	10.01	7.61
101⅝	100⅛	Treas 8¾% 1997	101⅝	+ ⅛	8.56	7.83
116⅝	114⅝	Exch 15% 1997	116	1 + ⅛	12.93	7.95
105⅝	102⅛	Exch 9¾% 1998	104⅛	+ ⅛	9.36	8.03
97⅝	95⅝	Treas 7¼% 1998	97⅝	+ ⅛	7.40	8.06
96⅝	94⅝	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	96⅝	+ ⅛	6.99	8.06
115⅝	114⅝	Treas 14% 1998-01	115⅝	+ ⅛	12.10	8.22
122⅛	120⅛	Treas 15½% 1998	121⅝	+ ⅛	12.71	8.12
111⅝	109⅝	Exch 12% 1998	111⅝	+ ⅛	10.75	8.21
104⅛	100⅛	Treas 9½% 1999	104⅛	+ ⅛	9.12	8.19
113⅛	111⅝	Exch 12¼% 1999	113⅛	+ ⅛	10.82	8.27
107⅝	105⅝	Treas 10½% 1999	107⅝	+ ⅛	9.75	8.28
92⅝	89⅝	Treas 6% 1999	92⅝	+ ⅛	6.51	8.19
107⅛	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	107⅛	+ ⅛	9.56	8.33
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
102⅝	100⅝	Conv 9% 2000	102⅝	+ ⅛	8.74	8.25
98⅝	96⅝	Treas 8% 2000	98⅝	+ ⅛	8.09	8.23
119⅝	117	Treas 13% 2000	119⅝	+ ⅛	10.69	8.38
107⅝	104⅝	Treas 10% 2001	107⅝	+ ⅛	9.31	8.39
93⅝	90⅝	Treas 7% 2001	93⅝xd	+ ⅛	7.49	8.34
107⅝	103⅝	Treas 9¾% 2002	106⅝	+ ⅛	9.11	8.48
98⅝	94⅝	Treas 8% 2003	97⅝	+ ⅛	8.20	8.44
109⅝	105⅝	Treas 10% 2003	108⅝	+ ⅛	9.18	8.50
117⅝	110⅝	Treas 11½% 2001-04	113⅝	+ ⅛	10.12	8.55
79⅝	73	Fund 3½% 1999-04	76⅝	+ ⅛	4.59	7.12
107⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2004	106⅝xd	+ ⅛	8.91	8.48
90⅝	87⅝	Treas 6¾% 2004	89⅝	+ ⅛	7.50	8.39

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
101⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2005	100⅝	+ ⅛	8.42	8.37
107⅝	103⅝	Conv 9½% 2005	106⅝xd	+ ⅛	8.83	8.47
123⅝	119⅝	Treas 12½% 2003-05	123	+ ⅛	10.16	8.66
95⅝	92⅝	Treas 7¾% 2006	95⅝	- ⅛	8.13	8.39
97⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2002-06	96⅝	+ ⅛	8.25	8.44
117⅝	113⅝	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	117⅝	+ ⅛	10.03	8.67
101⅝	97⅝	Treas 8½% 2007	100⅝	+ ⅛	8.43	8.39
130	126⅝	Treas 13½% 2004-08	129⅝	+ ⅛	10.41	8.66
105⅝	101⅝	Treas 9% 2008	104⅝xd	+ ⅛	8.58	8.39
97⅝	94	Treas 8% 2009	97⅝	+ ⅛	8.24	8.38
LONGS (over 15 years)						
82⅝	79⅝	Treas 6¼% 2010	82⅝	+ ⅛	7.61	8.21
105⅝	101⅝	Conv 9% 2011	105⅝	+ ⅛	8.53	8.38
105⅝	102⅝	Treas 9% 2012	105⅝	+ ⅛	8.51	8.37
75⅝	72⅝	Treas 5½% 2008-12	75⅝	- ⅛	7.26	8.14
97⅝	93⅝	Treas 8% 2013	96⅝	- ⅛	8.25	8.33
94⅝	91⅝	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	94⅝	+ ⅛	8.20	8.34
104⅝	100⅝	Treas 8¾% 2017	104⅝	+ ⅛	8.37	8.30
132⅝	127⅝	Exch 12% 2013-17	132⅝	- ⅛	9.07	8.52
UNDATED						
42⅝	40⅝	War Ln 3½%	42⅝	- ⅛	8.28	
29⅝	28⅝	Treas 2½%	29⅝	- ⅛	8.43	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
207⅝	201⅝	Treas IL 2% 1996	207⅝	+ ⅛	1.45	3.17
108⅝	106⅝	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	108⅝ 1	+ ⅛	2.60	3.50
169⅝	165⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2001	169⅝	+ ⅛	3.34	3.77
165⅝	161⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2003	165⅝	- ⅛	3.44	3.78
110⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅜% 2004	110⅝ 1	+ ⅛	3.45	3.77
172⅝	168⅝	Treas IL 2% 2006	172⅝	+ ⅛	3.52	3.77
156⅝	152⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2009	156⅝	+ ⅛	3.55	3.77
161⅝	157⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2011	161⅝	+ ⅛	3.59	3.79
133⅝	129⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2013	133⅝	+ ⅛	3.60	3.77
142⅝	137⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2016	142⅝	+ ⅛	3.64	3.80
136⅝	131⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2020	136⅝ 1	+ ⅛	3.66	3.80
113⅝	109⅝	Treas IL 2½% 2024	113⅝	+ ⅛	3.68	3.78
112⅝	108⅝	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	112⅝	+ ⅛	3.67	3.81

RETAILERS, FOOD

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
76½	64½	ASDA Group	76½		3.0	17.6
299	254½	Argyll	291	+ 1	5.0	12.4
538	455	Brake Bros	536	+ 7	1.7	
37	23	Budgens	34		3.7	30.6
13½	11½	Dalgety	12½			
82½	65½	Dairy Farm Intl	71½	- 2	3.8	
355	343	Farepak	345		2.5	17.8
55	38	Fitzwilton	46	- 2	6.3	19.4
110	98	Fyffes	102		1.9	14.6
199	154	Greggs	178	+ 5	5.8	13.7
1168	1048	Greggs†	1143		3.6	
182	142	Iceland Group	179	- 1	2.9	10.7
568	519	Kwik Save	551	+ 1	4.4	9.9
12½	10	Merchant Retail	10½			
147	132	Morrison (W)†	140	+ 2	1.1	14.1
191	128	Nurdin Peack	188	+ 3	4.4	10.4
128	98	Park Foods	102	+ 3	3.1	19.6
3	1½	Regina Hlth	1½			
439	403½	Sainsbury J	434	- 5	3.1	15.3
277½	236	Tesco	276	+ 6½	3.6	13.8
173	142	Thorntons†	157		3.9	12.9
392	358	Watson& Philip	391		4.9	14.7

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
32	21	Alexon	25			
222	205	Alders	217	- 2	3.9	12.2
405	324	Argos Plc†	404	- 1	3.2	18.1
78	63	Ashley (Laura)	71½	+ ½	0.2	
140	65	Asprey	81		9.3	6.7
219	205	Austin Reed	206		3.3	10.3
139	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	124	...	6.2	16.2
122	112	Bentalls	114		1.7	39.5
55	38½	Bellamare	45	+ 3½	7.5	4.9
35	30	Blacks Lee.	30		9.4	
194	167	Body Shop	171		1.6	15.0
527½	465	Boots	519	+ 2	3.7	16.5
3	1½	Brown & Jackson	2½			
236	210	Brown (N)	210	- 1	2.5	18.7
79	66	Burton	77	+ ½	3.2	38.0
150	100	Carlons	103		4.9	14.7
278	235	Carpetright	275	+ 1	3.7	19.5
178	132	Chelsea Im	146	...	1.8	
480	450	Church	458	+ 3	3.8	
96	67	Clinton Cards†	73		8.1	
107	84	Cty Casuals	106	...	5.1	30.4
813	763	Courts Furnish†	763		1.0	38.8
197	183	Crown Eyes	193	- 2	6.5	8.1
273	238	DFS Furniture	245		3.7	18.4
235	186	Donns Gp	234		3.6	24.9
580	580	Ehr. (Wimbldn)	580		3.8	27.2

TRANSPORT

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
65	63	Air London	63		6.9	12.0
710½	625½	All Nippon Air	673	+ 3	0.3	
290	262	Assoc Br Ports†	277		2.5	17.6
496	414	BAA	494	+ 6	2.4	18.9
154	130	Badgerline†	154	+ 2	3.7	15.6
100	48	Bensley Bus	50			
412	348	Br Airways	410	- 1½	3.5	10.2
35	25	Central Tran R	33	...	...	...
109	93	Clarkson (H)	103		2.6	
176	153	Clydeport	175	+ 6	2.5	
156	142	Dart	149		3.3	14.4
214	193	Eurodollar	214	+ 3	5.0	16.7
324	226	Eurotunnel Uts	242	- 1		
60	50	Fisher (James)†	60		2.1	
473	438	Forth Ports	470		2.7	
285	230	GRT Bus	285	+ 4	3.0	
195	166	Go-Ahead†	190	- 3	2.6	20.5
222	199	Goode Durrant	213	- 1	3.7	16.7
135	113	IoM Steam	113		5.0	
69	52	Jacobs (JH)	57		2.2	
77	67	Lon O'Seas Frist	68	...	6.9	1.6
403	358	Mersey Docks†	399		3.3	15.8
174	158	NFC	168	+ 2	5.3	17.1
327	289	Mall Express	#317		3.5	
319	251	Ocean Group	316	...	5.8	25.7
76	69	Ocean Wilson	75		5.3	10.9
612	549	P & O Dfd†	581	- 2	6.6	15.5
191	167	P & O 5.5%	190	- 1	3.6	...
93	87	Seacon	89		3.4	46.0
238	207	Stagecoach	207	- 1	2.6	20.6
110	79	TNT	87	+ 2		
713	573	Tibbet & Britn	618	- 7	3.3	
230	184	TDG†	211		5.6	14.1
128	92	Ugland	100		3.0	
105	90	Utd Carriers†	101		6.1	

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
520	443	Anglian	486	+ 6	8.0	11.0
349	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	347		4.3	11.7
571	483	North West	566	...	5.3	8.1
690	676	Northumbrian	673	+ 8	3.7	9.4
564	475	Severn Trent	527	- 1	5.8	8.8
2135	1855	South Staffs	2130		3.2	12.9
527	459	South West	513	+ 3	8.4	7.6
589	517	Southern	581	+ 9	5.1	8.4
504	456	Thames	497		6.0	7.3
679	567	Welsh	628	+ 8	5.2	8.9
312	252	Wessex	270	- 3	5.6	7.1
555	472	Yorkshire	543	+ 1	5.4	8.0

Source: Fixtel

⊕ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ♠ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; – Figures or report awaited; .. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index.

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	Sell	Buy	Daily +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grolund Amer	162.60	172.10	-1.70	0.71
Grolund Equity	238.70	253.90	-4.50	2.10
Grolund Euro	202.30	214.10	+5.70	0.50
Grolund Expt Gil	108.30	112.30		7.89
Grolund Gilt	73.45	75.72	+0.19	5.34
Grolund Japan	152.60	161.40	-1.60	
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	542.60	577.30t	-9.30	2.89
General Inc	473.10	503.40t	-8.20	2.89
UK Growth Acc	365.70	389.10	-6.80	2.95
UK Growth Inc	250.30	266.30	-4.60	2.95
Higher Inc Acc	675.60	718.80	-11.90	4.11
Higher Inc Inc	390.50	415.50	-6.90	4.11
Gilt&Fxd Int Acc	189.30	198.80t	-1.70	5.96
Gilt&Fxd Int Inc	89.24	94.26t	-0.81	5.96
Nth America	264.60	284.70	-1.00	
Far East	333.80	356.20	-1.80	0.35
Europe	272.80	290.20t	-7.00	1.02
Brit Growth	72.71	77.36	-0.32	3.08
Brit Frndmtl Acc	101.60	108.10t	-1.60	4.88
Brit Frndmtl Inc	72.77	77.42t	-1.14	4.88
Global Opps	83.95	88.64	-0.93	0.52
Balanced Acc	54.87	57.53	-0.67	3.15
Balanced Inc	52.40	55.75	-0.27	3.15
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income	126.90	134.70t	-0.50	7.40
Gilts & Fixed Inc	157.90	168.90t	-1.50	4.66
High Inc Equity	274.60	291.40	-6.00	4.46
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	£16.67	£17.01	-17.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Asia Inc & Growth	43.82	45.50t	-0.36	0.68
Cash	50.27	50.23t	-0.04	5.62
Emerging Mkts	63.52	67.20	-1.08	0.05
European	109.20	114.70	-3.20	
Energy	378.50	398.00t	+7.60	1.66
Extra Income #	44.73	47.32t	-0.24	6.37
Far East Emg Ecn	104.90	111.20	-1.40	0.56
Fixed Interest #	21.74	22.92t	+0.15	9.06
Fund Inv Tst	153.10	161.10t	-0.10	1.04
Japan	175.90	184.80	-2.10	
Latin American	45.74	48.01	-1.45	1.01
Pacific	68.50	72.40t	-6.35	0.37
Property Share	59.39	62.28	-0.70	1.19
UK Emerging Cos	59.68	62.65	-0.11	1.99
UK Growth	43.07	45.07t	-0.09	2.56
CENTURY UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0171 332 5000				
UK General Tst	62.48	66.46	-1.04	2.99
COIF-CHARITIES OFFICIAL INV FD				
0171 588 1815				
Inc	639.46	642.94	-17.72	4.07
Accum	527.51	527.62	-64.55	
Fixed Int Inc	119.75	120.05	-0.89	9.56
Fixed Int Acc	190.20	190.68	-3.08	
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 937 7667				
Intl Growth	107.69	117.30	+2.86	
UK Income	103.22	112.66	+1.27	5.30
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5966				
Bucmap Intl	77.17	81.70	-0.75	1.48
Beck Bio-Tech	26.25	27.83	-0.04	
Acorn Ethical Tst	138.78	151.66	-0.58	0.74
City Fin Assets	66.95	70.28t	-0.72	1.29
City Fin America	85.98	90.30t	-0.13	
City Fin Intl	73.12	76.97	-0.56	0.94
City Fin Japan	153.83	161.53	+1.58	
Frnrs Hse Cap	263.45	284.82	-0.04	1.73
Frnrs Hse Inc	187.11	202.86	-0.07	2.16
Bucknrs Wrld Grth	116.08	123.04t	-0.95	
Fairfax Cap Gth	130.76	137.30	-1.74	
Fairmount Intl	141.55	148.62	-1.67	
City Fin Ptflo Inc	51.08	56.14	+0.34	4.38
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	51.35	54.48	-0.06	
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	57.82	61.63	+0.11	
Asian Mngd Gwth	35.35	37.82	-0.72	0.58
Dragon Growth	61.02	65.26		0.73
Equity High Inc	80.50	85.64t	-1.11	4.20
(Accum Units)	109.08	116.04	-1.51	4.20
European Gwth	50.19	53.39	-2.06	1.16
Evergreen	35.95	37.75	-0.35	
General Equity	82.49	87.52	-1.50	2.90
Japan Growth	48.57	51.95	+0.34	
Property Gwth	49.67	52.84	-0.82	2.91
Ped Sm Cos Inc	28.67	30.50	+0.24	1.71
(Accum Units)	29.79	31.69	-0.25	1.71
Retirement Inc #	25.01	26.61	-0.12	5.95
Special Sits	36.49	38.82	-0.53	2.18
US & Overseas	46.40	49.36	-0.89	1.45
COLONIAL MUTUAL UT MGRS LTD				
01634 898 000				
Capital	67.44	71.49	-1.13	2.07
Income	60.70	64.34	-0.88	4.18
COMMERCIAL UNION FINANCIAL MGMT INTL LTD				
0181 686 9818				
PRESTIGE PORTFOLIO (PPT FUNDS)				
Income Funds				
Equity Inc	152.06	161.77t	-2.56	5.41
Fixed & Convertible	37.82	40.24t	-0.07	7.47
Monthly Inc Plus	46.24	49.19t	-0.22	9.11
Preference Share	44.39	47.32t	-0.14	7.99
Balanced Funds				
High Yield	116.52	123.96t	-0.91	6.55
Managed Fund	65.38	68.55t	+0.68	3.26
UK Growth Funds				
Smaller Cos	35.85	38.14t	-0.01	2.11
(Accum Units)	41.73	44.30t		2.11
UK & General	77.18	82.11t	+0.11	3.18
(Accum Units)	97.87	104.12t	-0.13	3.18
UK Growth	140.79	149.78t	-2.98	2.81
International Growth Funds				
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Extra Income	49.07	52.20t	+0.36	7.38
Gilt Yield	113.40	119.70t	+1.30	6.69
Global Income	204.90	218.00	+4.90	4.15
High Yield	133.70	142.20t	-0.50	6.23
(Accum Units)	405.20	436.30t	+3.50	6.23
Smllr Cos Dvr	49.03	52.16	-1.42	3.21
NW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 825867				
Balanced Fd #	£12.81	£13.08	+20.70	3.40
Income #	969.50	983.60	+10.40	4.69
WALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Waldon General	132.69	136.20		4.37
MANULIFE MANAGEMENT LTD				
Dealings: 01438 747 414				
Growth Units	196.30	208.90	+3.60	2.54
Gilt & Fxd Int	165.90	174.60	+0.60	6.74
Intl Growth	201.50	214.50	+2.90	0.38
North American	182.30	194.50	+1.70	0.69
Far East	251.20	270.80	+1.80	1.44
UK Smaller Cos	165.90	177.40	+1.90	1.87
European	78.71	83.62	+2.71	0.22
Japanese Growth	46.56	49.56	-0.49	
High Income	183.96	198.70	+2.60	4.37
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 680 068				
M & S Inv Ptflo	149.50	157.40	+2.50	2.32
-do- Accum	172.30	181.20	+2.90	2.32
UK Sel Ptflo	129.18	135.98	+2.40	2.52
-do- Accum	150.10	158.00	+2.80	2.52
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 384 842				
Managed Tst	66.51	70.75	+0.93	3.86

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Bravery wins day in epic encounter

By Julian Muscat

IT WAS the finest horse race of the season. It might well rate as the race of the decade. And hardened jumping folk were drifting aimlessly around Aintree yesterday, saying it was the greatest race they had seen.

In the future, only an optimist could expect another contest quite like Viking Flagship's defeat of Deep Sensation and Martha's Son in the Mumm Melling Chase. What distinguishes champion racehorses is their big hearts, and courage seeped from every sinew as the trio approached the final fence with the unity of synchronised swimmers.

You feared for the horses' safety as they flung themselves at the obstacle. They touched down as a team, yet Deep Sensation, a revelation on this better ground, was quickest away. It is almost perverse to record that Deep Sensation's courage has been doubted. He fought, like a lion, to maintain a narrow advantage over Viking Flagship, with Martha's Son bearing down on the outer.

Yet inch by inch, Viking Flagship fought his way back to the girths of Deep Sensation. Inexorably, the bay colour of Viking Flagship started to impose itself over the chestnut coat of Deep Sensation so that, 50 yards from the winning post, only the head of Deep Sensation was visible from the stands.

With their noses bobbing alternately, the pair were inseparable in a finish of paralysing intensity. Martha's Son was barely a length in arrears. The result was too close to call even after numerous television replays.

Neither jockey rode into the winner's enclosure, preferring instead to wait for the judge. How fitting it would have been had he declared a dead-heat, but it was not to be. Viking Flagship had it — by a vaguely perceptible nostril.

Throughout the race, a chilling beauty enveloped the fencing of these experienced steeplechasers. Maguire instantly recognised it. "Had any horse slightly missed out one fence, their chance would have totally gone," he said. "If I could come back in another life, I wish I could come back as Viking Flagship. His jumping was absolutely out of this world."

Indeed it was, although that will not be the abiding memory of this epic encounter. That occurred soon after the fourth fence from home, when Maguire, from just off the lead, took the opportunity to assess his opponents. He saw that Deep Sensation was racing well within himself. And he looked over, to his right, at Martha's Son, the upstart pretender to Viking Flagship's throne. It was a long, hard look, and it told him of the struggle ahead. You could almost see Maguire take a firmer grip of the reins in anticipation of the onslaught.

David Nicholson, who trains Viking Flagship, was effusive in praise of his stable jockey but the biggest compliment came from Robin Eliot, the owner of Deep Sensation. "Next time, you can leave your jockey at home," he told Nicholson.

By necessity, the rest of the day's events paled by comparison. Another spell-binding finish saw the Mary Reveley-trained Morgans Harbour home by a whisker from the gallant Jack Button in the Belle Epoque Sefton Novices' Hurdle. And Sheer Jest conquered the National fences to deny the veteran, Brown Windsor, in the Martell Fox Hunters' Chase. But on this special day, the adrenalin bank had been drained dry by the second race. There was nothing left to give.

Nap: SNITTON LANE
(2.20 Aintree)
Next best: Blue Siren
(2.30 Beverley)

JULIAN HERBERT

The winner, Viking Flagship, is locked between Martha's Son and Deep Sensation (right) jumping the last at Aintree

Large Action favoured

AINTREE
BBC1

12.30: This may be a fun event but **Great Hall** undoubtedly merits suppport. Peter Cundell's horse will be razor sharp after two recent outings over seven furlongs. He runs best in blinkers, which he wears today, and this is his best distance.

1.45: Shujan, who led over the last in the Coral Cup at Cheltenham, should do better over this shorter trip. He looks fairly treated but his propensity to run from the front always leaves him vulnerable. Although Batabanoo will have the race run to suit him, the handicapper has done him no favours. Thinking Twice will be close to peak fitness after a lengthy absence. He should enter the argument but **Cumbrian Challenge** is preferred.

The ground will suit Peter Easterby's consistent six-year-old, who will be well served by the long finishing straight. Pridwell ran creditably when backed for the County Hurdle, won by Home Counties. However, both horses may be ill-suited by the tight track. Gaelic Myth would do better on softer ground. Bold Boss will be better for his seasonal comeback in the Champion Hurdle but Dreams End has to defy a lengthy absence.

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

2.20: **Snitton Lane** catches the eye in this immensely competitive handicap. Bill Clay's mare, who bounces off fast ground, is potentially well treated even though she runs from 4lb out of the handicap. Her sixth in the Champion Chase demonstrated that her turn is near.

Coulton looks her biggest threat. The eight-year-old, a revelation this term, fully deserved his Cheltenham victory but had a hard race that day. Clay County and Egypt Mill Prince, both competitive front-runners, may end up cutting each other's throats. Oh So Grumpy and Thumbs Up have brighter prospects but Uncle Ernie, victorious 12 months ago, would prefer some give in the ground.

2.55: Supporters of Danoli will blame his Champion Hurdle defeat on his blunder three flights from home. This extra half-mile will be to his advantage but the ground is against him. The combination of faster ground and shorter trip will count against Stayers' Hurdle winner Doran's Pride.

Large Action has everything in his favour. Oliver Sherwood's horse had Danoli and Mysilv behind him at Cheltenham. He stays this trip and Mysilv should ensure a strong gallop.

3.45: see page 38

JULIAN MUSCAT

Aintree

Going: good to firm (Mildmay course): good (National course)

2.00 (2m 4f hdle) 1, TERVEL (C Swan, 4-1); 2, Call My Guest (M Dwyer, 20-1); 3, Putty Road (A Maguire, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 3-1 jt-fav Berude Not To, Simple Arithmetic, 11 Cadougold (5th), 12 Brave Tornado (6th), Roberty Lea (4th), 50 Act The Wag, 100 Explore Mondial. 10 ran. 2l, 3½l, 2l, 7l, 9l. J Pearce at Newmarket. Tote: £4.60; £1.70, £3.40, £1.70. DF: £94.90. Trio: £127.00. CSF: £86.58.

2.35 (2m 4f ch) 1, VIKING FLAGSHIP (A Maguire, 5-2); 2, Deep Sensation (N Williamson, 5-1); 3, Martha's Son (R Farrant, 11-10 fav). ALSO RAN: 15-2 Nakir (5th), 33 Second Schedual (pu), Southolt (4th). 6 ran. NR: Gale Again. Sh hd, 1l, 4l, 20l. D Nicholson at Temple Guiting. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £7.20. CSF: £13.62.

3.10 (3m 1f ch) 1, BANJO (R Dunwoody, 5-4 fav); 2, Kadi (A Maguire, 7-4); 3, Scotton Banks (R Garritty, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 100-30 Autumn Castle (pu). 4 ran. NR: Brave Highlander, Unguided Missile. 14l, 15l. M Pipe at Wellington. Tote: £2.00. DF: £1.90. CSF: £4.22.

3.45 (2m 6f ch) 1, SHEER JEST (Mr A Hill, 5-1 fav); 2, Brown Windsor (Mr B Pollock, 11-2); 3, Dark Dawn (Mr S Swiers, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Once Stung (4th), 10 Sparkling Flame, Wont Be Gone Long, 11 Amari King, 14 On The Other Hand (5th), Solar Green (6th), 16 Golden Freeze (f), Mel Station (f), Scoofagboy, 25 Sirisat (f), 33 Moneaughty Man, Star Oats (f), 50 Bradwall, Stay On Tracks, 66 General Highway, Unor, 100 Andrelot (ur), Damers Cavalry, Ifeee (f), 200 Acenainhi (f), Light The Wick (f), No Word, Wheal Prosper (f). 28 ran. 1l, 2l, 8l, 1½l, 3l. W Warner at Northampton. Tote: £5.90; £2.40, £2.40, £2.20. DF: £16.70. Trio: £21.30. CSF: £32.23.

4.20 (3m 110yd hdle) 1, MORGANS HARBOUR (P Niven, 6-1); 2, Jack Button (D Bridgwater, 13-2); 3, Conquering Leader (M A Fitzgerald, 7-2 fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Miracle Man (6th), 7 Betty's Boy (pu), 15-2 Trickle Lad, 11 Treasure Again (pu), 12 Linton Rocks (4th), 14 Charmer's Well, My Rossini (pu), 20 Call It A Day (5th), 50 Better Bythe Glass, Certain Angle, Dominie, 100 Katasadi. 16 ran. NR: Bear Claw, Ealing Court, Mr Knitwit, St Mellion Fairway. Sh hd, 1l, 10l, 4l, sh hd. Mrs M Reveley at Saltburn. Tote: £8.20; £2.30, £1.80, £2.30. DF: £16.50. Trio: £16.40. CSF: £44.07.

4.50 (2m 4f hdle) 1, SQUIRE SILK (S McNeill, 16-1); 2, Taroudant (P Niven, 14-1); 3, Lucky Blue (N Williamson, 33-1); 4, Green Lane (D Bridgwater, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Hops And Pops, 8 Great Marquess, 10 Noyan (5th), Salwan, 11 Smuggler's Point, Welshman (p), 12 Chief Minister, 14 Barna Boy, Cash Chase, 16 Test Match, 20 Moving Out (6th), Native Worth (f), Redeemyourself, 25 Bottles, 33 Kabayil, 50 Divine Chance, Habasha, 66 Sacre D'Or. 22 ran. NR: Mariner's Air. 1¾l, hd, sh hd, 2½l, 6l. A Turnell at Wantage. Tote: £42.30; £8.50, £4.50, £4.80, £2.10. DF: £419.10. Trio: not won (pool of £2,641 carried forward to 3.45 at Aintree today). CSF: £226.91. Tricast: £5,522.53.

5.20 (3m 1f ch) 1, FLASHTHECASH (J Osborne, 9-2 fav); 2, Musthaveaswig (A Maguire, 8-1); 3, Gallateen (R Dunwoody, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Easy Buck (5th), 7 Couldnt Be Better (pu), 9 Grange Brake (pu), Lucky Lane, 11 Silver Stick (4th), 14 Bart Owen (6th), Beech Road (ref to race), 20 Sailors Luck, 25 Tammy's Friend (pu), 50 Basilicus. 13 ran. NR: Rough Quest. 1½l, sh hd, 15l, 30l, 1l. C Egerton at Chaddleworth. Tote: £4.60; £1.90, £2.30, £2.50. DF: £17.60. Trio: £38.90. CSF: £37.78. Tricast: £215.55.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £33,649.22 carried forward to Aintree today).
Placepot: £263.90. Quadpot: £32.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: good (turf): standard (AW)

2.15 (1m AW) 1, Jackatack (R Hughes, 8-1); 2, Bon Secret (2-1 fav); 3, Spitfire Bridge (8-1). 6 ran. 1½l, 7l. M Channon. Tote: £9.90; £3.30, £1.40. DF: £8.40. CSF: £17.14.

2.45 (5f) 1, Gweepyr (J Carroll, Evens fav); 2, Cyrillic (7-2); 3, Bees (40-1). 8 ran. 2l, 6l. J Berry. Tote: £1.60; £1.10, £1.90, £4.10. DF: £10.50. CSF: £4.83.

3.15 (5f) 1, Whicksey Perry (J Carroll, 2-1); 2, Repertory (7-4 fav); 3, Worldwide Elsie (4-1). 5 ran. ¾l, 8l. J Berry. Tote: £2.20; £1.60, £1.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.77.

3.45 (7f) 1, Sheppard's Cross (Pat Eddery, 9-2 fav); 2, Shepherd Market (6-1); 3, Sagebrush Roller (8-1). 13 ran. 1¾l, 1¾l. P Walwyn. Tote: £6.60; £2.40, £2.80, £2.00. DF: £16.60. Trio: £44.90. CSF: £32.80. Tricast: £199.42.

4.15 (1m 2f AW) 1, Maralinga (J Reid, 5-1); 2, Proposing (2-1 fav); 3, Off'n'away (9-4). 7 ran. NR: Bencher Q C. 1¾l, hd. M Bell. Tote: £14.20; £3.90, £1.70. DF: £13.40. CSF: £15.14.

4.45 (5f) 1, Nordico Princess (R Cochrane, 9-2); 2, Allthruthenight (10-1); 3, Domicksky (10-1). Little Saboteur 7-2 fav. 11 ran. NR: Anselman. Nk, 1¾l. G Oldroyd. Tote: £4.10; £1.90, £3.10, £3.00. DF: £39.80. Trio: £172.70. CSF: £45.49. Tricast: £394.23.

5.15 (1m 2f AW) 1, Susy Banana (W Ryan, 7-1); 2, Persian Conquest (9-1); 3, Dont Shoot Fairies (16-1). Vin St Koola 2-1 fav. 8 ran. ¾l, 15l. R Hannon. Tote: £4.80; £2.90, £2.60, £3.30. DF: £27.50. CSF: £59.20. Tricast: £876.10.

Placepot: £72.40. Quadpot: £92.30 (part won; pool of £24.98 carried forward to Beverley today).

Beverley

Going: good to firm

2.20 (5f) 1, The Frisky Farmer (T Sprake, 8-1); 2, Penny Parkes (5-4 fav); 3, Ghostly Apparition (12-1). 8 ran. 2½l, 4l. W G M Turner. Tote: £9.90; £1.10, £1.10, £3.30. DF: £4.70. CSF: £15.22. Bought in for 9,200gns.

2.50 (5f) 1, Bolshoi (G Carter, 7-1); 2, Showery (6-1); 3, Sing With The Band (10-1). Yes Wale Evens fav. 10 ran. 1¾l, 1l. J Berry. Tote: £9.30; £2.20, £1.70, £4.30. DF: £39.70. Trio: £133.00 (part won; pool of £149.86 carried forward to 2.30 at Beverley today). CSF: £54.13.

3.20 (2m 35yd) 1, Moonlight Quest (T Ives, 8-1); 2, Rolling The Bones (8-1); 3, White Willow (6-1); 4, Ballymac Girl (7-1). Sleeptite 11-2 fav. 23 ran. NR: Vasiliev. 5l, ¾l. B Hanbury. Tote: £27.20; £4.60, £3.20, £1.90, £2.90. DF: £121.90. Trio: £224.20. CSF: £89.16. Tricast: £417.81.

3.50 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Bunting (L Dettori, 2-5 fav); 2, Dee-Lady (2-1); 3, College Night (25-1). 4 ran. 1l, ¾l. J Gosden. Tote: £1.40. DF: £1.10. CSF: £1.64.

4.25 (1m 1f 207yd) 1, Wayne County (L Dettori, 8-1); 2, Southern Power (10-1); 3, Retender (7-1). Rory 3-1 fav. 15 ran. ¾l, 2½l. G Fierro. Tote: £10.20; £2.10, £5.40, £2.90. DF: £34.20. Trio: £238.20 (part won; pool of £101.08 carried forward to 2.30 at Beverley today). CSF: £90.34. Tricast: £551.99.

5.00 (7f 100yd) 1, Sandmoor Chambray (M Birch, 9-2); 2, Sea-Ayr (12-1); 3, Tatika (4-1 fav); 4, Tolls Choice (20-1). 18 ran. 1½l, 1l. M H Easterby. Tote: £9.10; £1.70, £2.50, £1.90, £16.00. DF: £60.30. Trio: £137.40. CSF: £84.05. Tricast: £229.15.

Placepot: £433.90. Quadpot: £28.70.

Point-to-point

FIXTURES: Today: Burton (Market Rasen) inside NH Course (first race 1.50). Curre (Howick) 2 miles west of Chepstow (1.15). Puckeridge (Horseheath) 3 miles east of Linton (2.00). Spooners and West Dartmoor (Higher Kilworthy) 2 miles north-east of Tavistock (1.30). United (Brampton Bryan) 10 miles west of Ludlow (1.30). Tomorrow: Blackmore and Sparkford Vale (Charlton Hawthorn) 4 miles south-west of Wincanton (2.00). Cheshire Forest (Sudlow Farm) 1 mile west of Knutsford (2.00). Isle of Wight (Barbery Castle) 4 miles south of Swindon (1.00). Jedforest (Friars Haugh) 1 mile west of Kelso (2.00). Middleton (Whitwell on the Hill) six miles south-west of Malton (1.30). Pytchley (Guilsborough) 10 miles north of Northampton (2.00). Tivyside (Pantyderi) seven miles north-east of Newcastle Emlyn (1.00).

Blinkered first time

AINTREE: 12.30 Sharp Conquest. 2.20 Storm Alert. 3.45 Zeta's Lad. BEVERLEY: 3.30 Spirituelle. HEREFORD: 1.35 Ecu De France. 2.40 Timely Example, Haydon Hill. 3.10 The Communicator. 4.20 Clifton Set. 5.25 Star Market, Duggan.

MONDAY: Edinburgh (first race, 2.00), Folkestone (1.45).
TUESDAY: Bangor (2.20), Kelso (2.15), Southwell (AW, 2.00).
WEDNESDAY: Exeter (2.20), Hamilton Park (2.10), Worcester (2.00).
THURSDAY: Folkestone (2.10), Sedgefield (2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 2.00).
FRIDAY: No racing.
SATURDAY: Carlisle (2.05), Haydock Park (BBC, 2.00), Kempton Park (C4, 1.45), Newton Abbot (2.10), Plumpton (2.25), Towcester (2.20), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).
Flat meetings in bold

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BEVERLEY

THUNDERER
1.00 Modest Hope. 1.30 Tropical Jungle. 2.00 Mystique Smile. 2.30 Blue Siren. 3.00 Lyford Law. 3.30 Chiming In.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS
DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

1.00 MELLING ROAD HANDICAP
(£3,309: 1m 1f 207yd) (19 runners)

1 (4) 54/ LORD HASTIE 605 (D,F,G,S) C Thornton 7-10-3 O Pears (3) –
2 (11) -560 TOVARICH 5 D Nicholls 4-10-0 Alex Greaves 91
3 (10) 006- AUGUSTAN 130J (D,F) S Gollings 4-9-11 R Hughes 89
4 (16) 615- GLENUGIE 21J (CD,F) G Moore 4-9-9 J Tate (3) 87
5 (17) 2950 GREEK GOLD 5 (D,G) G Kelly 6-9-7 B Peel (7) 87
6 (5) 53-0 NORTH ARDAR 15 (D,F,G) Mrs M Reveley 5-9-6 G Parkin (7) 98
7 (9) 0212 MODEST HOPE 10 (D,F,G) B Richmond 8-9-4 J Weaver 87
8 (2) 00/ FRIAR STREET 521 E Alston 5-9-4 K Fallon –
9 (19) 230- BOLD ELECT 208 (C,F,G,S) P Wigham 7-9-3 M Wigham 90
10 (1) 10-5 WENTBRIDGE LAD 7 (B,C,G,S) B McMahon 5-9-3 L Dettori 92
11 (8) 50-0 BROUGHTON'S PRIDE 92 J Glover 4-9-3 Dean McKeown [illegible]
12 (7) -314 LARN FORT 15 (V,CD,F,G,S) C Fairhurst 5-9-1 R Cochrane 94
13 (13) 06-0 HO-JOE 54 (C,F) J Carr 5-8-13 S Morris 91
14 (15) 450- THATCHED 197 (F) R Barr 5-8-11 S Webster 96
15 (12) 05-0 STOPPROVERITATE 15 (B,S) Mrs M Reveley 6-8-8 K Darley 98
16 (6) 000- KALKO 29J (V,C,F) A Harrison 6-8-8 J Stack (5) 90
17 (3) 00-0 REED MY LIPS 15 B Baugh 4-8-7 A Culhane –
18 (14) 000 MINSTER GLORY 19J M W Easterby 4-8-7 L Charnock –
19 (18) 0300 UCKERBY LAD 19 (B) N Littmoden 4-8-5 T G McLaughlin (5) 90

6-1 Larn Fort, 7-1 Stopproveritate, 8-1 Modest Hope, 10-1 Wentbridge Lad, 12-1 Augustan, Broughton's Pride, 14-1 others.

1.30 VALENTINES SELLING STAKES
(£2,425: 1m 3f 216yd) (9 runners)

1 (5) 000- ANTARTICTERN 130J (B,F,G) N Tinkler 5-9-4 K Darley –
2 (6) 000- IRISH SENOR 44J (B) J Spearing 4-9-2 Dean McKeown [illegible]
3 (3) 0/0 KIMBERLEY BOY 7 (S) G Oldroyd 5-8-13 R Cochrane –
4 (7) 0/ KING OPTIMIST 29J A Smith 6-8-13 M Birch –
5 (2) -302 TROPICAL JUNGLE 8 (B) P Makin 5-8-13 L Dettori 87
6 (1) /50- TTYFRAN 17J (D,F) B Baugh 5-8-13 A Culhane –
7 (8) 264- PERSIAN LINNET 140J Mrs M Reveley 4-8-11 S Copp (7) 80
8 (4) -530 ANN HILL 49 (D,F,G) R Hollinshead 5-8-8 W Ryan 76
9 (9) 00/ SOTTISES 28J P Dalton 4-8-6 L Charnock –

2-1 Irish Senor, 3-1 Tropical Jungle, 4-1 Persian Linnet, 8-1 Antarticiern, 10-1 Kimberley Boy, Ann Hill, 12-1 Ttyfran, 14-1 others.

2.00 CHAIR MAIDEN AUCTION FILLIES STAKES
(2-Y-O: £2,952: 5f) (8)

1 (2) MYSTIQUE SMILE J Berry 8-7 J Carroll –
2 (6) FORTUITIOUS J Jenkins 8-6 L Dettori –
3 (1) 2 UNCONDITIONAL LOVE 9 M Johnston 8-6 D Holland –
4 (8) TAKAPUNA R Hannon 8-5 R Perham –
5 (7) BADGER BAY John Berry 8-4 J Quinn –
6 (4) 0 AUSTOVER 7 R Dickin 8-3 J Lowe –
7 (3) LADY ECLAT J Glover 8-3 G Carter –
8 (5) SKELTON COUNTESS R Hollinshead 8-3 K Darley –

7-4 Mystique Smile, 9-4 Unconditional Love, 7-2 Takapuna, 8-1 Skelton Countess, 10-1 Lady Eclat, 12-1 Fortuitious, 14-1 others.

2.30 EAST RIDING STAKES
(Listed race: £12,839: 5f) (13)

1 (1) 553- GREAT DEEDS 154 (D,F,G,S) M Channon 4-9-5 R Hughes 90
2 (5) 005- AVERTI 282 (D,F,G) W Muir 4-9-3 J Weaver 78
3 (10) 03-0 CALL ME I'M BLUE 14 (D,G,S) N Tinkler 5-9-3 M Birch 82
4 (11) 504- EL YASAF 207 (D,F,G,S) G Fierro 7-9-3 M Wigham 89
5 (4) 30-0 REGAL CHIMES 14 (D,F,G) B McMahon 6-9-3 T Ives 82
6 (13) 00-6 VENTURE CAPITALIST 14 (F,G) D Nicholls 6-9-3 Alex Greaves 84
7 (7) 212- BLUE SIREN 233 (D,F,G,S) I Balding 4-9-2 L Dettori [illegible]
8 (2) 121- BRANSTON ABBY 141 (CD,F,G,S) M Johnston 6-9-2 J Reid 98
9 (9) 111- EVENINGPERFORMANCE 191 (D,F,S) H Candy 4-9-2 W Newnes 89
10 (3) 500- WELSH MIST 213 (D,F,G) R Boss 4-9-2 W Ryan 92
11 (12) 053- ALZIANAH 141 (D,G,S) J Bethell 4-8-12 B Thomson 93
12 (6) 412- LUCKY PARKES 192 (CD,F,G,S) J Berry 5-8-12 J Carroll 95
13 (8) 50/- SKIPE HALL 541 (CD,F,G,S) T Watson 4-8-12 Dean McKeown –

3-1 Blue Siren, 9-2 Branston Abby, 5-1 Great Deeds, 7-1 Lucky Parkes, 10-1 Welsh Mist, 12-1 Call Me I'm Blue, Eveningperformance, 14-1 others.

3.00 GRAND NATIONAL DAY HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,763: 1m 100yd) (8)

1 (8) 405- RAISE THE STAKES 183 I Balding 9-7 R Cochrane 88
2 (1) 2-1 LYFORD LAW 35 (G) J Gosden 9-7 L Dettori 93
3 (2) 01-0 FAME AGAIN 16 (D,S) Mrs J Ramsden 9-5 K Fallon [illegible]
4 (7) 11-0 CLIFTON FOX 16 (C,G) J Glover 9-3 M Birch 98
5 (3) 55-5 ROY BOY 14 Mrs M Reveley 9-1 K Darley 97
6 (6) 230- SHINING EDGE 204 M H Easterby 8-7 S Maloney 95
7 (4) 440- BLASTED 168 R Hannon 8-1 B Carter 95
8 (5) 00-0 KILDRUMMY CASTLE 14 Mrs J Ramsden 7-13 J Fanning 93

2-1 Lyford Law, 9-2 Raise The Stakes, 5-1 Fame Again, 8-1 Roy Boy, Shining Edge, 7-1 Clifton Fox, 10-1 others.

3.30 CANAL TURN HANDICAP
(3-Y-O: £3,277: 7f 100yd) (10)

1 (3) 00-0 SPIRITUELLE 15 (B) M McCormack 9-7 J Reid 84
2 (8) 454- CHIMING IN 175 Mrs J Ramsden 9-4 K Fallon 85
3 (1) 506- THE STAGER 175 J Jenkins 9-2 L Dettori 87
4 (10) 014- EURO REBEL 156 (F) M H Easterby 8-13 M Birch 88
5 (9) 160- PRUDENT PET 158 (D,G) C Fairhurst 8-13 J Fanning 89
6 (7) 00-0 RAMBO WALTZER 16 (D,G) S Norton 8-11 M Tebbutt 93
7 (6) 252- BLAZE OF SONG 154 R Hannon 8-10 R Perham 94
8 (5) 60-0 PRIME PROPERTY 47 M W Easterby 8-10 K Darley 85
9 (2) 00-0 FOIST 40 M W Easterby 8-1 L Charnock 88
10 (4) 040- BALLARD LADY 184 J Wainwright 7-7 J Quinn [illegible]

5-2 Blaze Of Song, 7-2 Chiming In, 4-1 Euro Rebel, 9-2 The Stager, 8-1 Prudent Pet, Spirituelle, 10-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

BEVERLEY: Trainers: R Hannon, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; I Balding, 11 from 34, 32.4%; M Channon, 10 from 39, 25.6%; M Johnston, 12 from 67, 17.9%; Mrs M Reveley, 13 from 87, 14.9%; J Berry, 19 from 131, 14.5%; R Boss, 3 from 21, 14.3%. Jockeys: J Reid, 5 winners from 14 rides, 35.7%; L Dettori, 10 from 39, 25.6%; W Ryan, 16 from 76, 21.1%; D Holland, 10 from 54, 18.5%; K Darley, 40 from 221, 18.1%; R Cochrane, 7 from 40, 17.5%.

HEREFORD: Trainers: M Channon, 3 from 5, 60.0%; R Buckler, 7 from 19, 36.8%; R Alner, 7 from 20, 35.0%; N Twiston-Davies, 16 from 58, 27.6%; S Christian, 5 from 19, 26.3%; Mrs H Parrott, 4 from 18, 22.2%. Jockeys: M Ahern, 3 from 8, 37.5%; Peter Hobbs, 3 from 14, 21.4%; M Foster, 5 from 27, 18.5%; R Davis, 8 from 48, 16.7%; N Mann, 9 from 55, 16.4%; J Railton, 7 from 59, 11.9%.

HEREFORD

THUNDERER
1.35 Master Charlie. 2.10 Gilston Lass. 2.40 Doujas. 3.10 Quite A Man. 4.20 Tenbit. 4.50 Coolree. 5.25 Jason's Boy.

Brian Beel: 3.10 Dalametre.

GOING: FIRM SIS

1.35 KILPECK MAIDEN HURDLE
(£2,990: 2m 1f) (16 runners)

1 0P65 AMILLIONMEMORIES 45 Mrs B Waring 5-11-0 E Byrne
2 F000 AVENUE FOCH 14 F Murphy 6-11-0 M Foster
3 0P BLAKE'S WONDER 26 R Alner 5-11-0 C Maude
4 3000 CHRIS'S GLEN 8 (V) J Bradley 6-11-0 W McFarland
5 -050 DANCE ON SIXPENCE 10 J Peacock 7-11-0 R Bellamy
6 0P00 DONTDRESSFORDINNER 17 D R Tucker 5-11-0 DOUBTFUL
7 0-6 ECU DE FRANCE 98F (B) P Rodford 5-11-0 D Meredith (3)
8 P FATHERS FOOTPRINTS 38 J Bradley 7-11-0 Mr R Johnson (7)
9 000 MAC THE LAD 18 S Christian 6-11-0 G Upton
10 6 MASTER CHARLIE 14 I Balding 5-11-0 J Railton
11 0-F5 PERSIAN VIEW 157 K Bailey 5-11-0 A Thornton
12 P DORMSTON LASS 100 G Yardley 5-10-9 V Slattery
13 00 DUBELLE 16 J King 5-10-9 P Ward (7)
14 -025 FLAMING SANDS 28 K Wingrove 6-10-9 J Ryan
15 FUCHU 173F D Geraghty 5-10-9 R Supple
16 0F KERRY JANE 44 N Babbage 5-10-9 W Humphreys

7-4 Master Charlie, 7-2 Persian View, 7-1 Chris's Glen, 8-1 Avenue Foch, 10-1 Mac The Lad, 12-1 Dance On Sixpence, Dubelle, 14-1 others.

2.10 CUSOP HANDICAP CHASE
(£3,696: 3m 1f 110yd) (6)

1 2-F3 MR JAMBOREE 22 (F,G) K Bailey 9-11-10 A Thornton
2 2322 LADY GHISLAINE 10 (G,S) F Murphy 8-10-13 B Murphy (5)
3 02-3 GILSTON LASS 191 (F,G) J King 8-10-10 G Upton
4 UPFP EBONY GALE 44 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-5 J Railton
5 40PP SOONER STILL 24 (B,D,F,G,S) C Cowley 11-10-0 C Maude
6 3045 PANT LLIN 14 (F) F Jordan 9-10-0 J Lodder

6-4 Mr Jamboree, 9-4 Gilston Lass, 11-4 Lady Ghislaine, 8-1 Ebony Gale, 14-1 Pant Llin, 16-1 Sooner Still

2.40 BREDWARDINE NOVICES SELLING HURDLE
(£1,660: 2m 1f) (17)

1 00U6 JACK A HOY 21 R Brotherton 5-11-0 T Eley (3)
2 2P KATBALLOU 21 K Wingrove 6-11-0 W McFarland
3 P MANSIO 28 C Jones 11-11-0 M Bosley
4 RAVE-ON-HADLEY 15F S Campion 5-11-0 P Midgley (3)
5 0-5F WEDDING DREAM 34P J Jenkins 6-11-0 Mr M Gingell
6 000 AVRIL ETOILE 44 C Jones 5-10-9 G Upton
7 40-F DOUJAS 103 R Buckler 5-10-9 Peter Hobbs
8 R-06 GRIMSTON PARK 28 J Wharton 7-10-9 B Dalton
9 0 MOP FAIR 2325 J Jenkins 14-10-9 Mr R Pollock (7)
10 03FP URBAN LILY 87 R Hodges 5-10-9 A Tory
11 00 BIRLABOON 18 K Wingrove 4-10-8 J Ryan
12 000 TAYLORS HIGHFLYER 21 R Price 4-10-8 R Davis
13 00 TIMELY EXAMPLE 21 (B) G Cambidge 4-10-8 Gary Lyons
14 HAYDON HILL 82F (V) P Evans 4-10-3 F Leahy (5)
15 00 MATHANDAN 17 R Evans 4-10-3 Mr R Johnson (7)
16 000 SHIFT CHANGEOVER 9 S Mellor 4-10-3 N Mann
17 PPU VITE ETOILE 26 R Hodges 4-10-3 I Lawrence

4-1 Doujas, 6-1 Wedding Dream, Shift Changeover, Grimston Park, 7-1 Urban Lily, 8-1 Katballou, 10-1 Rave-On-Hadley, 12-1 others.

3.10 GARWAY NOVICES HUNTERS CHASE
(Amateurs: £1,735: 2m) (10)

1 1PPP ARCTICFLOW 14P (B) N Thomson 10-12-0 S Davis (7)
2 -232 DALAMETRE 14P (G,S) Miss J Pidgeon 8-12-0 J Smyth-Osbourne (7)
3 22-1 DANDIE IMP 20P (S) Miss P Whittle 7-12-0 T Jackson (7)
4 -P5F PAMELA'S LAD 21P (G,S) M Lloyd 9-12-0 G Hanmer (7)
5 2-PP QUITE A MAN 7P (S) W Everall 7-12-0 S Brookshaw (5)
6 P-F1 ROYAL GLEASON 17P (S) Mrs L Vaughan 11-12-0 Miss S Wallin (7)
7 -046 RYTON RUN 16 (B) Mrs S Odell 10-12-0 J Trice-Rolph (7)
8 1/P- THE COMMUNICATOR 441P (B,S) J Peacock 9-12-0 B Pollock (7)
9 PP-P GLOWING MANTLE 21P P Whiston 7-11-9 S Joynes (7)
10 0/PF THE DABBER 7P B Wells 12-11-9 D Verco (7)

7-4 Dalametre, 9-4 Pamela's Lad, 5-1 Ryton Run, 6-1 Quite A Man, 8-1 Royal Gleason, 12-1 The Communicator, 16-1 others.

4.20 BROAD OAK CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,388: 3m 2f) (8)

1 1055 CLIFTON SET 22 (V,S) M Channon 4-11-11 A Procter
2 03P7 CARDINAL GAYLE 38 R Alner 5-10-2 P Carey (3)
3 P440 SELDOM IN 24 R Brotherton 9-10-0 T Eley
4 04P2 CATS RUN 47 J R Upson 7-10-0 J Supple
5 2000 VERONA PRINCESS 21 J King 7-10-0 P Ward (3)
6 3066 TENBIT 136 N Twiston-Davies 5-10-0 G Hogan (3)
7 6F30 DRAGONS LADY 17 B De Haan 6-10-0 D Fortt
8 00P6 KALI SANA 17 R Allsop 7-10-0 D Meredith

6-4 Clifton Set, 7-2 Cats Run, 6-1 Seldom In, 7-1 Verona Princess, 8-1 Cardinal Gayle, Tenbit, 12-1 others.

4.50 PANDY NOVICES CHASE (£2,879: 2m 3f) (7)

1 -F43 COOLREE 24 (F) P Nicholls 7-11-4 C Maude
2 0540 FLINTERS 21 (B) D McCain 8-11-4 D McCain
3 7425 PENNINE PASS 11 D Williams 6-11-4 A Thornton
4 5-4P SPECULATION 26 (F) J Jenkins 13-11-4 Mr M Gingell
5 4-4F TAKE BY STORM 14 R Buckler 6-11-4 Peter Hobbs
6 -000 THE JET SET 30 (S) Mrs H Parrott 8-11-4 V Slattery
7 -6P4 CLOWN AROUND 18 J Halsey 7-10-13 R Davis

9-4 Coolree, 3-1 Take By Storm, 7-2 Pennine Pass, 6-1 Speculation, 7-1 Flinters, 14-1 The Jet Set, 16-1 Clown Around.

5.25 LONGTOWN HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,878: 2m 1f) (18)

1 2F3- HAVE A NIGHTCAP 36F (D,G,S) N Littmoden 6-12-0 M Brennan
2 2410 GESNERA 128 (CD,F,G) K White 7-12-0 J Bond (7)
3 FU81 ILEWIN 18 (F,G,S) M Ahern 8-11-8 M Ahern
4 105R STAR MARKET 3 (B,G,S) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-6 Mr S Joynes (7)
5 U361 SCRABO VIEW 42 (B) P Beaumont 7-11-4 C Hawkins
6 2302 JOHN NAMAN 175 (D,F,G) D Geraghty 6-11-0 R Supple
7 0000 LOCH GARANNE 9 (S) R Buckler 7-10-11 Peter Hobbs
8 26P3 TENAYESTELIGN 7 D Marks 7-10-7 J A McCarthy
9 5151 PRIMOST 26 (B,D,G,S) F Murphy 4-10-5 M Foster
10 310 DUGGAN 80 (V,CD,S) P Evans 8-10-5 F Leahy (5)
11 4056 KELLY'S DARLING 118 (D,F) R Savage 9-10-4 W McFarland
12 6013 JASON'S BOY 29 (D,S) J Bradley 5-10-0 Mr R Johnson (7)
13 0045 TAKE A FLYER 44 (F,G) R Hodges 5-10-0 I Lawrence
14 0560 NORTHREEL 28 G Ham 4-10-0 D Fortt (5)
15 -F45 BE MY EPA 86 (G) N Babbage 7-10-0 W Humphreys
16 0000 COMANECI 59 (B) K Bridgwater 7-10-0 J Lodder
17 P0P6 PRINCETHORPE 19 (S) B Cambidge 8-10-0 D Meredith (3)
18 00P3 GUNNER BE GOOD 29 J Cresswell 5-10-0 T Eley (3)

9-2 Tenayestelign, 5-1 Scrabo View, 6-1 Star Market, 7-1 Ilewin, 8-1 Gesnera, Primost, Jason's Boy, 12-1 others.

AINTREE

THUNDERER
12.30 Sharp Conquest
1.45 **DREAMS END** (nap)
2.20 Egypt Mill Prince
2.55 Danoli
3.45 Crystal Spirit
4.35 The Carrot Man
5.15 Red Blazer

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.45 **MASTER OATS**.

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

101 113143 GOOD TIMES 13 (BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 12-0 B West (7) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing. F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (MILDMAY AND HURDLES COURSES), GOOD (GRAND NATIONAL COURSE) SIS

12.30 MARTELL BOB CHAMPION CANCER TRUST LIMITED HANDICAP (£3,383: 6f) (10 runners)

BBC1

1 (7) 306415 INVOCATION 14 (D,F,S) [illegible] A Moore 9-12-0 R Champion 91
2 (2) 35110-0 PRINCESS MAXINE 3 (F,G,S) (J Clayton) J J O'Neill 6-11-12 P Buckley 89
3 (3) 221/800- CLARION CALL 441 (B,G) [illegible] G Thorner 4-11-11 G Thorner –
4 (1) 63-0640 CHINOUR 15 (F,G) [illegible] E Alston 7-11-11 M Barnes 92
5 (6) 02060-4 JIGSAW BOY 15 (D,F,S) (All Eight Club) P Murphy 6-11-11 H Davies 97
6 (10) 211100 LITTLE IBNR 38 (D,G) (Cantrell Transport Ltd) P Evans 4-11-11 M Scudamore [illegible]
7 (4) 00-1000 SHARP CONQUEST 15 (V,G) (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 4-11-9 T Stack 97
8 (8) 00-0500 GREY TOPPA 43 (F,G) [illegible] N Littmoden 4-11-7 S C Knight 96
9 (5) 000-052 GREAT HALL 9 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs M Fraser) P Cundell 6-11-6 T Carberry 98
10 (9) 643000- PAMPERED GUEST 22J (F) [illegible] 4-11-4 B R Davies 96

BETTING: 5-2 Jigsaw Boy, 3-1 Little Ibnr, 5-1 Invocation, 6-1 Great Hall, 8-1 Princess Maxine, 10-1 others.

1994: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

INVOCATION beat Tyrian Purple 1½l in handicap at Lingfield (AW, 6f) on penultimate start. PRINCESS MAXINE'S best effort beat Montrelle Angel 2½l in apprentices handicap at Carlisle (7f 214yd, heavy). JIGSAW BOY 1l 4th of 12 to Castlerea Lad in handicap at Doncaster (6f, good to firm). LITTLE IBNR best recent effort beat Curtain Maker 2l in 8-runner handicap at Wolverhampton (AW, 7f), with CHINOUR (2lb worse off) 6¾l 4th. GREAT HALL ½l 2nd to Sandmoor Denim in handicap at Leicester (7f, soft).
Selection: JIGSAW BOY

1.45 CORDON BLEU HANDICAP HURDLE
(£19,220: 2m 110yd) (14 runners)

BBC1

101 10127-P BOLD BOSS 25 (D,G,S) (J Pearce) M Pipe 6-11-10 R Dunwoody 84
102 110-413 BATABANOO 64 (D,F,G,S) (P Savill) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-8 P Niven 87
103 13131- DREAMS END 14F (D,F,S) (T Price) S Llewellyn 7-11-5 M Hourigan 93
104 26/520-1 GAELIC MYTH 22 (D,S) (The Barcol Syndicate) T Stack (Ire) 8-11-1 C Swan 89
105 0-21320 PRIDWELL 23 (D,F,G,S) (M Jones) M Pipe 5-11-0 J Lower 96
106 512231 HOME COUNTIES 23 (D,G,S) (Prem Cinemas Ltd) D Moffatt 6-10-11 D J Moffatt (3) [illegible]
107 631032 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 63 (D,G,S) (Cumbrian Ind) M H Easterby 6-10-10 L Wyer 94
108 7-10810 PIMBERLEY PLACE 13 (D,G,S) (W Jones) P Mullins (Ire) 7-10-10 T Treacy 91
109 3-36420 SHUJAN 24 (D,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 6-10-10 D Bridgwater 92
110 14605-0 PERSUASIVE 8F (CD,G,S) (W Morley) Mrs M Reveley 8-10-3 G Lee (5) 90
111 211/00 THINKING TWICE 15 (D,F,G) (E McGrath) N Henderson 6-10-0 M A Fitzgerald 90
112 10-0420 NEMURO 23 (D,G) (W Harrison-Allen) D Elsworth 7-10-0 L Aspell (7) 92
113 254110 BRAMBLEBERRY 23 (D,G,S) (Hampers Racing) Mrs S Smith 6-10-0 Richard Guest 89
114 211-222 DESTINY CALLS 15 (D,G) (Mrs P Bates) N Gaselee 5-10-0 C Llewellyn 82

Long handicap: Nemuro 9-10, Brambleberry 9-6, Destiny Calls 8-3

BETTING: 5-1 Home Counties, 6-1 Dreams End, Gaelic Myth, 7-1 Batabanoo, 8-1 Thinking Twice, Bold Boss, 10-1 Pridwell, Shujan, 12-1 Cumbrian Challenge, Pimberley Place, 14-1 others.

1994: FOR REG 5-10-7 A Maguire (4-1 fav) P Flynn (Ire) 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOLD BOSS beat Winter Squall 5l in grade II Bonusprint Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury (2m 110yd, good) on sole start last season. BATABANOO neck and 1½l 3rd of 9 to Large Action in handicap hurdle at Kelso (2m 110yd, good to soft). DREAMS END beat For Reg 3½l in grade III Crowther Homes Swinton Handicap Hurdle at Haydock (2m, good to firm) May 1994, with HOME COUNTIES (1lb better off) 18½l 11th. GAELIC MYTH beat Kazabath 1½l in 9-runner conditions hurdle at Limerick (2m, heavy). HOME COUNTIES beat Family Way head in 23-runner grade III Vincent O'Brien County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 1f, soft) with PRIDWELL (4lb better off) 13l 7th, NEMURO 3l 7th and BRAMBLEBERRY (3lb worse off) 19l 20th. CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE ½l 2nd of 11 to Squire Silk in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m, soft) with PERSUASIVE (3lb better off) 35½l 10th. SHUJAN 10l 2nd of 6 to Top Spin in handicap hurdle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, heavy) on penultimate start.
Selection: DREAMS END (nap)

2.20 MARTELL AINTREE CHASE
(Limited handicap: Mildmay course: grade II: £26,020: 2m) (12 runners)

BBC1

201 3F-1530 STORM ALERT 84 (B,D,F,G,S) (Exors of W Whetherly) A Turnell 9-11-10 S McNeill 93
202 11P321 COULTON 23 (C,D,F,G,S) (M St Quinton) O Sherwood 8-11-8 J Osborne 95
203 4-5245F WONDER MAN 91 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs S Robins) D Nicholson 10-11-6 A Maguire 94
204 4441U4 UNCLE ERNIE 24 (CD,G,S) (Lady Lloyd Webber) Jimmy Fitzgerald 10-11-6 P Niven 98
205 133330 EGYPT MILL PRINCE 24 (B,D,F,G,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 9-11-3 W Marston [illegible]
206 3P1414 THUMBS UP 23 (D,F,S) (M Buckley) N Henderson 9-10-10 M A Fitzgerald 96
207 P0-2311 CLAY COUNTY 64 (D,F,G,S) (Mutton to Mined) M Hammond 10-10-10 N Williamson 95
208 1116-14 NATIVE MISSION 119 (D,BF,G,S) (G Shouler) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8-10-7 M Dwyer 93
209 131212 OH SO GRUMPY 22F (D,F,G) (Mrs E Queally) Mrs J Harrington 7-10-7 R Dunwoody 93
210 11/24-FP WIND FORCE 147 (C,D,F,G) (J Moreton) G Richards 10-10-7 M Moloney 96
211 2-F2226 SNITTON LANE 24 (D,F,G,S) (H Wellstead) W Clay 9-10-7 D Bridgwater 97
212 P-3401P ONE MORE DREAM 24 (D,F,G) (M Jackson) Mrs S Smith 8-10-7 Richard Guest 92

Long handicap: Native Mission 10-6, Oh So Grumpy 10-6, Wind Force 10-3, Snitton Lane 10-3, One More Dream 9-6.

BETTING: 9-2 Coulton, 5-1 Oh So Grumpy, 6-1 Snitton Lane, 7-1 Egypt Mill Prince, Uncle Ernie, 8-1 Storm Alert, Thumbs Up, 10-1 Clay County, 12-1 Wonder Man, 14-1 Native Mission, 25-1 others

1994: UNCLE ERNIE 9-10-8 M Dwyer (3-1) Jimmy Fitzgerald 8 ran

FORM FOCUS

STORM ALERT best effort this season beat OH SO GRUMPY (2lb worse off) ¾l in 6-runner handicap at Ascot (2m, good to firm). COULTON beat Sullane River head in 11-runner Cathcart Challenge Cup Chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft). UNCLE ERNIE 12½l 4th of 10 to Viking Flagship in grade I Queen Mother Champion Chase at Cheltenham (2m, soft) with SNITTON LANE (12lb better off) 13l 6th and EGYPT MILL PRINCE (7lb better off) 10l 7th. EGYPT MILL PRINCE 2½l 2nd of 8 to Martha's Son in grade I Comet Chase at Ascot (2m, good) on penultimate start, with COULTON (1lb better off) 5l 3rd, UNCLE ERNIE (3lb better off) 13l 4th and STORM ALERT (2lb better off) 20l 7th. THUMBS UP about 2¾l 4th of 8 to Sound Reveille in Grand Annual Handicap Chase at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft). CLAY COUNTY beat Houghton 1¾l in 7-runner handicap chase at Kelso (2m 1f, good to soft). NATIVE MISSION beat Mutual Trust 4l in 4-runner handicap chase at Haydock (2m, good to soft) on penultimate start.
Selection: COULTON

2.55 MARTELL AINTREE HURDLE
(Grade I: £30,610: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

BBC1

301 102110 BORO EIGHT 16F (G,S) (Hudson Valley) P Mullins (Ire) 9-11-7 N Williamson 78
302 11-1123 DANOLI 25 (CD,G,S) (D O'Neill) T Foley (Ire) 7-11-7 C Swan 96
303 122111 DORANS PRIDE 23 (D,G,S) (T Doran) M Hourigan (Ire) 6-11-7 J P Broderick 98
304 40P-16F HALKOPOUS 23 (F,G,S) (A Christodoulou) M Tompkins 9-11-7 A Maguire 85
305 211112 LARGE ACTION 25 (G,S) (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 7-11-7 J Osborne [illegible]
306 13-6115 MYSILV 25 (G,S) (Elite Racing Club) C Egerton 5-11-2 G Bradley 94

BETTING: 2-1 Danoli, 9-4 Large Action, 5-2 Dorans Pride, 6-1 Mysilv, 16-1 Halkopous, 25-1 Boro Eight.

1994: DANOLI 6-11-7 C Swan (9-2) T Foley (Ire) 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

BORO EIGHT 16½l 10th of 17 to Anusha in grade I Ladbroke Handicap Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, yielding). Previously beat Tropical Lake 25l in 4-runner grade II Bookmakers Hurdle at Leopardstown (2m, heavy). DANOLI best effort this season beat DORANS PRIDE (5lb worse off) 4l in grade I Hattons Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse (2m 4f, yielding to soft). DORANS PRIDE completed treble beat Cyborgo 5l in 11-runner grade I Bonusprint Stayers Hurdle at Cheltenham (3m 110yd, soft) with HALKOPOUS 4th and weakening when fell last. HALKOPOUS best effort this season beat Avro Anson 12l in grade II Tote West Yorkshire Hurdle at Wetherby (3m 1f, good). LARGE ACTION 5l 2nd of 14 to Alderbrook in grade I Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft) with DANOLI 2l 3rd and MYSILV head and 2½l 5th.
Selection: LARGE ACTION

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE
(Grade III: £118,854: 4m 4f) (35 runners)

BBC1

RUNNERS AND RIDERS — SEE PAGE 38

4.35 CHIVAS REGAL AMATEUR RIDERS NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE
(Mildmay course: £7,254: 2m 4f) (10 runners)

501 0/5-1F44 STRAIGHT TALK 103 (F,G,S) (Hunt & Co Ltd) P Nicholls 8-11-10 Miss P Curling (5) 91
502 132-4F4 SWALLOWS NEST 16 (F,G,S) (T Nicholson) J Nicholson (Ire) 8-11-10 A R Coonan (3) –
503 05U130 FAIR BROTHER 14 (G,S) (Mrs S Wate) G Balding 9-11-3 T J Murphy (5) [illegible]
504 P-R1143 HURDY 119 (F,G) (Leading Star Racing) Mrs S Bramall 8-11-0 D Parker (5) 88
505 230342 FOUR DEEP 22 (F,G,S) (The Braw Partnership) J Johnson 7-10-9 C Bonner (5) 92
506 F5PF21 KNOCK RANK 14 (D,S) (Mrs A Kelly) E Owen jun 10-10-6 A Griffith (7) 88
507 30F185 EASBY JOKER 5 (D,S) (G Orchard) S Kettlewell 7-10-5 C Bonner (5) 96
508 2-P2523 THE CARROT MAN 14 (Mrs J Winkworth) P Winkworth 7-10-5 G Brown (7) 93
509 2441F4 CHARTERFORHARDWARE 19 (S) (Charter Racing Ltd) W Clay 9-10-5 S Swiers 80
510 3P5620 MUSKET SHOT 15 (J Bradburne) Mrs S Bradburne 7-10-5 Miss L Bradburne (7) 82

BETTING: 3-1 Four Deep, 4-1 Straight Talk, 5-1 Hurdy, 6-1 Knock Rank, 7-1 The Carrot Man, 8-1 others.

1994: ALL FOR LUCK 9-11-4 B Hamilton (9-4 fav) M Pipe 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

STRAIGHT TALK 25l 4th of 7 to Flyer's Nap in handicap chase at Wincanton (3m 1f 110yd, good). HURDY distant 3rd of 9 to Morceli in novice chase at Doncaster (2m 3f 110yd, good). FOUR DEEP 2½l 2nd of 11 to Super Malt in novice handicap chase at Cheltenham (2m 5f, soft); EASBY JOKER (8lb better off) every chance when brought down 3 out. KNOCK RANK beat Walls Court 2l in 11-runner maiden chase at Bangor (2m, good to soft). EASBY JOKER 8¼l 5th of 16 to Mils Mij in novice handicap chase at Kelso (2m 1f, good to firm). THE CARROT MAN 1½l 2nd of 9 to Maneree in novice chase at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft).
Selection: EASBY JOKER

5.15 MARTELL CHAMPION NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE
(Grade II: £7,005: 2m 110yd) (15 runners)

601 1316 DENISE'S PROFILES 24 (S) (Exterior Profiles) N Twiston-Davies 5-12-0 Mr M Rimell –
602 1100 WISLEY WONDER 24 (G,S) (Wisley Golf Plans) N Twiston-Davies 5-12-0 T Jenks –
603 31 DANTES CAVALIER 31 (S) (W Dore) D Gandolfo 5-11-10 D Leahy –
604 15 GOWLAUN 168 (G) (Highflyers) G Balding 6-11-10 A P McCoy –
605 6241 INTERMAGIC 14 (G) (Mrs J Cleary) G Balding 5-11-10 S Fox –
606 51 LINE OF CONQUEST 28 (S) (Miss C James) R Hodges 5-11-10 Miss P Curling –
607 31234 MANDICAT 24 (G) (Mrs B Eve) Jimmy Fitzgerald 5-11-10 E Callaghan –
608 31 SUGAR MILL 33 (G) (C Buckley) Mrs M Reveley 5-11-10 G Lee –
609 1 ASHWELL BOY 14 (G) (A S Racing) P Hobbs 4-11-4 B Tonney –
610 13 EBULLIENT EQUINAME 70 (BF,S) (Mrs P Covey) D Eddy 4-11-4 A Roche –
611 1333 GENERAL'S ORDERS 7 (S) (Mrs S Blakeley) J Norton 4-11-4 W Fry –
612 12 RED BLAZER 24 (S) (T Swinglton) Miss H Knight 4-11-4 Mr Anthony Martin –
613 1 SOUTHERNHAY BOY 16 (S) (D Coxall) Mrs S Williams 4-11-4 S Lyons –
614 02 BODFARI PRODUCER 14 (R McAlpine) J Edwards 5-11-1 D Bentley –
615 20 CHARMING GIRL 24 (J King) T Thomson Jones 4-10-9 Guy Lewis –

BETTING: 9-4 Red Blazer, 6-1 Sugar Mill, 7-1 Denise's Profiles, Mandicat, 8-1 Line Of Conquest, 10-1 others.

1994: NAHLA 4-10-9 S Curran (8-1) Miss J Doyle 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

DENISE'S PROFILES beat Lord McMurrough 6l in National Hunt Flat race at Warwick (2m, soft) on penultimate start, with DANTES CAVALIER (3lb worse off) 11l 3rd and INTERMAGIC (3lb worse off) 2l 4th. SUGAR MILL beat Brancher 4l in 17-runner National Hunt Flat race at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). RED BLAZER 1¼l 2nd of 21 to Dato Star in National Hunt Flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, soft) with MANDICAT (2lb better off) 8¼l 4th, DENISE'S PROFILE (2lb worse off) 2¼l 6th and WISLEY WONDER (2lb worse off) 4l 9th.
Selection: RED BLAZER

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
A Bailey	6	17	35.3	C Llewellyn	3	12	25.0
Mrs M Reveley	3	10	30.0	C Maude	3	12	25.0
Jimmy Fitzgerald	5	19	26.3	N Williamson	5	23	21.7
J Gifford	4	17	23.5	R Dunwoody	11	65	16.9
G Balding	5	31	16.1	P Niven	3	18	16.7
D Nicholson	8	50	16.0	G Bradley	3	20	15.0

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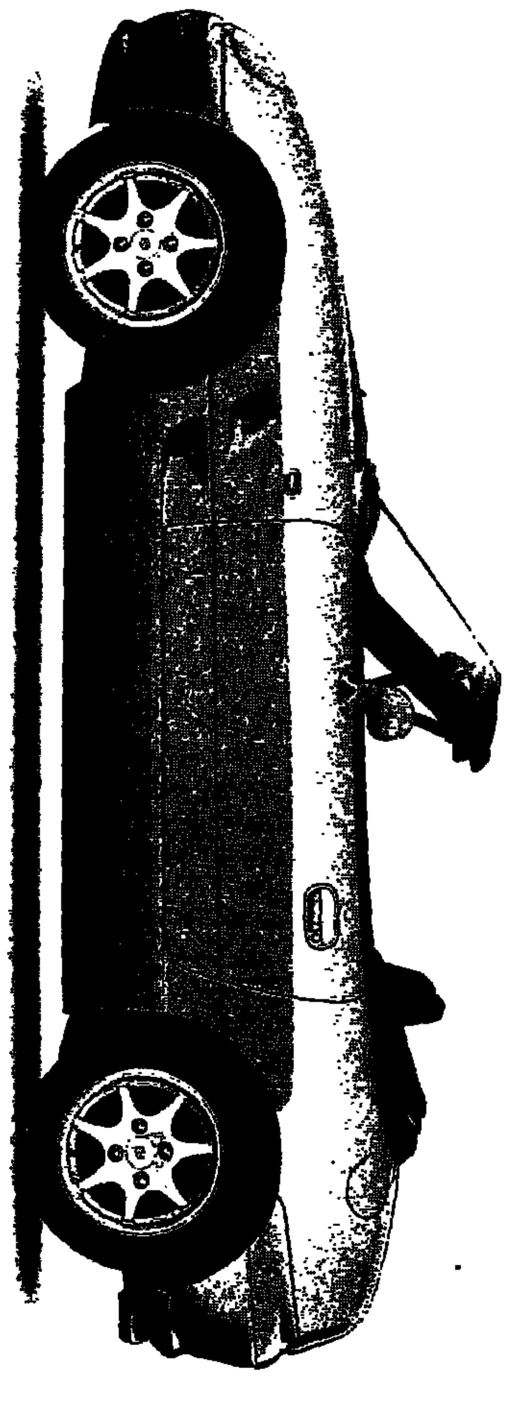

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Confidence grows in Crystal Spirit

Jamie Osborne aims to taste National glory for the first time with Paul Mellon's chaser

CLARE BANCROFT

Crystal Spirit has been practising over lookalike Aintree *fences to build his confidence for today's big challenge*

Ask any of the 35 jockeys today whether they have a chance of winning the Grand National and the majority will make a convincing case for themselves. Where the Grand National — the race every jockey dreams of winning — is concerned realists tend to become optimists and the optimists convince themselves that it is just a question of collecting the prized trophy.

I try to remain a realist but I am itching with anticipation for the challenge that lies ahead today. Crystal Spirit, trained by Ian Balding, is the horse with which I am aiming to improve my appalling National record of only one completion in five attempts.

Paul Mellon's eight-year-old was bred to win a classic and although he did not prove good enough to achieve his breeder's initial aim on the Flat a Grand National would not be a bad consolation. He is a high-class horse who I am sure possesses sufficient ability to win today's race, especially as he will be racing on his favoured fast ground.

Crystal Spirit has well above average jumping ability but sometimes appears to lack belief in it. There is no room for that at Aintree. In the past few weeks I have been working on building his confidence so that he can cope with the new challenge that he is faced with today.

Last week he not only jumped three Aintree lookalike fences but he also jumped around Ian Balding's team chase course. His confidence grew the more obstacles he jumped and when I returned on Tuesday to jump ordinary steeplechase fences I felt the exercise had worked. He jumped with an extra fluency and enthusiasm that I had not felt in him before.

Today's trip of 4½ miles is a mile and a half further than he has raced. Obviously regarding his stamina we are entering unknown territory. But his high cruising speed should enable him to travel comfortably through the race and conserve energy.

Master Oats, the Gold Cup winner and one of today's market leaders, is the horse we all have to beat. He has class and stamina in abundance. His only weak link could be his jumping, but Norman Williamson will find him easier to organise on today's fast ground than the soft he faced at Cheltenham where he made two howling mistakes.

He should have little to fear from those horses who finished behind him in the Gold Cup. He trounced both Dubacilla and Miinnehoma and they are only 5lb and 6lb respectively better off today. Surely not enough to reverse the form.

Then there is the much-fancied Young Hustler, who finished the length of the straight behind Master Oats at Cheltenham. Young Hustler is challenging Master Oats for favouritism — either punters have lost all sight of logic or they know something I do not.

Master Oats will be a tough nut to crack but, in receipt of 20lb, Crystal Spirit could well be the horse to do it.

3.45 MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE
(Grade III: £118,854: 4m 4f) (35 runners)

401	F1-1111	MASTER OATS 23 (G,S) (P Matthews) K Bailey 9-11-10	N Williamson	99
402	P/101-13	MIINNEHOMA 23 (CD,F,G,S) (F Starr) M Pipe 12-11-4	R Dunwoody	89
403	154425	YOUNG HUSTLER 23 (F,G,S) (Mrs M McKever) N Twiston-Davies 8-11-2	C Llewellyn	86
404	102522	DUBACILLA 23 (G,S) (H Cole) D Nicholson 9-11-0	D Gallagher	90
405	1F-3625	ROYAL ATHLETE 35 (C,F,G,S) (G & L Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-6	J F Titley	92
406	51F256	CHATAM 25 (F,G,S) (A Nolan) M Pipe 11-10-6	A P McCoy	89
407	22-1041	CRYSTAL SPIRIT 84 (F,G,S) (P Mellon) I Balding 8-10-4	J Osborne	85
408	2F-51UP	ZETA'S LAD 25 (B,F,G,S) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 12-10-3	G Bradley	89
409	11R21P	LUSTY LIGHT 23 (F,G,S) (B Burrough) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-2	R Farrant	85
410	10/1-23P	PARTY POLITICS 42 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Thompson) N Gaselee 11-10-2	M Dwyer	93
411	22231U	NUAFFE 23 (G,S) (J Doyle) P Fahy (Ire) 10-10-0	S O'Donovan	90
412	2-33124	GENERAL PERSHING 24 (F,G,S) (J Potter) G Richards 9-10-0	D Bridgwater	80
413	26252P	RIVERSIDE BOY 21 (B,BF,G,S) (Bisgrove Partnership) M Pipe 12-10-0	C Swan	89
414	0U0-2PP	TOPSHAM BAY 25 (F,G,S) (Sir Eric Parker) J Gifford 12-10-0	P Hide	88
415	604350	EBONY JANE 25 (G,S) (J Lynch) D Weld (Ire) 10-10-0	A Maguire	83
416	12/6401	COUNTRY MEMBER 29 (G,S) (Mrs C Williams) A Turnell 10-10-0	L Harvey	82
417	0-200P5	BISHOPS HALL 13 (F,G,S) (J Carroll) H de Bromhead (Ire) 9-10-0	C Maude	75
418	3-24U24	DAKYNS BOY 21 (G,S) (A Parker) N Twiston-Davies 10-10-0	T Jenks	75
419	11-1305	ERRANT KNIGHT 24 (F,G,S) (Mrs N Bird) M Pipe 11-10-0	M Perrett	73
420	412130	GARRISON SAVANNAH 24 (B,G,S) (Autofour Engineering) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-0	W Marston	75
421	F4PP31	COOL GROUND 11 (F,G,S) (Whitcombe Manor Ltd) D Elsworth 13-10-0	P Holley	77
422	1055/0P	TINRYLAND 21 (F,G) (M Buckley) N Henderson 11-10-0	M A Fitzgerald	—
423	3P-2230	SUPERIOR FINISH 25 (B,G,S) (G Henfrey) Mrs J Pitman 9-10-0	P Niven	81
424	24F-P03	FOR WILLIAM 20 (B,F,G,S) (Mrs A Daly) M Morris (Ire) 9-10-0	C O'Dwyer	—
425	430/2-0P	THE COMMITTEE 21 (G,S) (D Quinn) J Scott (Ire) 12-10-0	T Tanaka	82
426	231F44	INTO THE RED 49 (C,G,S) (J Huckle) J White 11-10-0	Richard Guest	72
427	4/4-3P5P	ESHA NESS 22 (G,S) (P Bancroft) Mrs J Pitman 12-10-0	J White	74
428	UF-3536	ROMANY KING 25 (G,S) (U Schwarzenbach) K Bailey 11-10-0	Mr M Armytage	64
429	131143	GOLD CAP 22 (G,S) (G Meadows) P Hobbs 10-10-0	G McCourt	69
430	5P3626	DESERT LORD 14 (G,S) (P Keogh) A McNamara (Ire) 9-10-0	F Woods	58
431	11B20P	JUMBEAU 16 (G,S) (Pell-mell Partners) J Gifford 10-10-0	S McNeill	66
432	P42355	DO BE BRIEF 25 (B,G,S) (E Brown) Mrs J Pitman 10-10-0	B Powell	66
433	221-343	CAMELOT KNIGHT 25 (S) (M Gates) N Twiston-Davies 9-10-0	Mr M Rimell	58
434	622464	OVER THE DEEL 23 (F,G,S) (G Tobitt) J Johnson 9-10-0	Mr C Bonner	63
435	421634	ITS A SNIP 37 (B,G,S) (The Icy Fire Partnership) C Mann 10-10-0	J R Kavanagh	50

LONG HANDICAP: General Pershing 9-13, Riverside Boy 9-13, Topsham Bay 9-12, Ebony Jane 9-10, Country Member 9-9, Bishops Hall 9-8, Dakyns Boy 9-6, Errant Knight 9-5, Garrison Savannah 9-4, Cool Ground 9-3, Tinryland 9-3, Superior Finish 9-2, For William 9-0, The Committee 8-13, Into The Red 8-12, Esha Ness 8-12, Romany King 8-11, Gold Cap 8-10, Desert Lord 8-8, Jumbeau 8-7, Do Be Brief 8-6, Camelot Knight 8-5, Over The Deel 8-3, Its A Snip 6-0.

1994: MIINNEHOMA 11-10-8 R Dunwoody (16-1) M Pipe 36 ran

Odds from the leading bookmakers

CORALS: 11-2 Master Oats, 15-2 Young Hustler, 8-1 Miinnehoma, 10-1 Country Member, 11-1 Crystal Spirit, Dubacilla, 12-1 Lusty Light, 14-1 Ebony Jane, 16-1 Party Politics, 18-1 General Pershing, 25-1 Chatam, Garrison Savannah, Topsham Bay, 28-1 Into The Red, Nuaffe, 40-1 Royal Athlete, Superior Finish, 50-1 Zeta's Lad, Riverside Boy, Tinryland, Esha Ness, Romany King, Gold Cap, 66-1 Dakyns Boy, Cool Ground, 80-1 For William, 100-1 Bishops Hall, Errant Knight, The Committee, Over The Deel, 150-1 Desert Lord, Jumbeau, Do Be Brief, Camelot Knight, 300-1 It's A Snip.

LADBROKES: 6-1 Master Oats, 7-1 Young Hustler, 8-1 Miinnehoma, 10-1 Country Member, 11-1 Crystal Spirit, Dubacilla, Lusty Light, 16-1 Party Politics, 18-1 Nuaffe, 20-1 Chatam, General Pershing, 22-1 Into The Red, 25-1 Ebony Jane, Garrison Savannah, Topsham Bay, 40-1 Superior Finish, 50-1 Errant Knight, Riverside Boy, Romany King, 66-1 Zeta's Lad, Gold Cap, Royal Athlete, Esha Ness, Dakyns Boy, Cool Ground, Tinryland, 100-1 Bishops Hall, Desert Lord, The Committee, Do Be Brief, 150-1 Camelot Knight, Jumbeau, Over The Deel, For William, 200-1 Its A Snip.

WILLIAM HILL: 6-1 Master Oats, 7-1 Miinnehoma, Young Hustler, 10-1 Country Member, Dubacilla, 12-1 Lusty Light, 14-1 Crystal Spirit, 16-1 Party Politics, 20-1 Ebony Jane, Garrison Savannah, 22-1 General Pershing, Into The Red, Topsham Bay, 25-1 Chatam, 28-1 Nuaffe, 50-1 Dakyns Boy, Esha Ness, Riverside Boy, Royal Athlete, Romany King, Superior Finish, Tinryland, 66-1 Bishops Hall, Camelot Knight, Cool Ground, Do Be Brief, Gold Cap, Zeta's Lad, 100-1 Errant Knight, The Committee, 150-1 Desert Lord, For William, Jumbeau, Over The Deel, 250-1 Its A Snip.

TOTE: 13-2 Master Oats, 9-1 Young Hustler, 10-1 Miinnehoma, 12-1 Country Member, Dubacilla, 14-1 Crystal Spirit, 16-1 Lusty Light, Party Politics, 20-1 Ebony Jane, 22-1 General Pershing, 25-1 Chatam, Garrison Savannah, Into The Red, 28-1 Nuaffe, Topsham Bay, 40-1 Romany King, 50-1 Dakyns Boy, Esha Ness, Gold Cap, Riverside Boy, Superior Finish, Zeta's Lad, 66-1 Bishops Hall, Over The Deel, Royal Athlete, 66-1 Tinryland, 80-1 Cool Ground, 100-1 Camelot Knight, Desert Lord, Do Be Brief, Errant Knight, Jumbeau, The Committee, 150-1 For William, 200-1 Its A Snip.

COMPREHENSIVE FORM GUIDE

MASTER OATS
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: (12-0) beat Dubacilla (11-9) 15l with Miinnehoma (12-0) 15l 3rd, Young Hustler (12-0) 14l 5th and Nuaffe (12-0) unseated rider 9th (3m 2f 110yd, gd I ch, £122,540, 15 ran).
Jan 28, Cheltenham, heavy: (11-6) beat Dubacilla (11-5) 15l with Young Hustler (11-12) 9½l 4th and Topsham Bay (11-12) pulled up before 15th (3m 1f 110yd, conditions ch, £13,815, 7 ran).
Dec 31, Newbury, heavy: (11-6) beat Earth Summit (10-12) 20l with Party Politics (11-5) 25l 3rd, Gold Cap (10-0) 20½l 4th, Chatam (11-11) fell two out and Dakyns Boy (10-3) unseated rider three out (3m 6f, hcap ch, £24,466, 8 ran).
Dec 3, Chepstow, soft: (11-4) beat Party Politics (11-7) 4l with Cool Ground (11-0) distant 3rd and Lusty Light (10-11) third when refused last (3m, gd II hcap ch, £17,495, 5 ran).
Apr 9, 1994, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

MIINNEHOMA
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: see Master Oats.
Jan 7, Haydock, soft: (11-8) beat General Pershing (10-7) 20l (2m 4f, hcap ch, £17,211, 3 ran)
Apr 9, Aintree, heavy: (10-8) beat Just So (10-3) 1¼l with Ebony Jane (10-1) 44½l 4th, Garrison Savannah (10-3) refused 17th, Topsham Bay (10-11) unseated rider 13th, Zeta's Lad (10-13) tailed off when fell last, Riverside Boy (10-0) refused 18th, Into The Red (10-0) 5th when unseated rider last, Romany King (10-1) fell 4th, Young Hustler (10-12) brought down 11th, Master Oats (10-0) fell 13th (4m 4f, gd III hcap ch, £115,606, 36 ran).

YOUNG HUSTLER
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: see Master Oats.
Feb 9, Wincanton, soft: see Garrison Savannah.
Jan 28, Cheltenham, heavy: see Master Oats.
Dec 17, Ascot, good: see Dubacilla.
Apr 9 1994, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

DUBACILLA
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: see Master Oats.
Jan 28, Cheltenham, heavy: see Master Oats.
Jan 7, Sandown, good to soft: see Riverside Boy.
Dec 17, Ascot, good: (11-3) 1¼l 2nd to Raymylette (10-9) with Country Member (10-6) 11½l 4th, Young Hustler (12-0) 4l 5th and Cool Ground (10-0) unseated rider three out (3m 110yd, hcap ch, £21,036, 8 ran)

ROYAL ATHLETE
Mar 4, Doncaster, good: (10-11) 37l 5th to Cab on Target (12-0) (3m 110yd, hcap hdle, £4,816, 9 ran)
Feb 18, Windsor, heavy: see Zeta's Lad.
Feb 4, Sandown, soft: see Superior Finish.

CHATAM
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Do Be Brief.
Feb 5, Leopardstown, soft to heavy: see Nuaffe.
Jan 21, Haydock, heavy: (10-7) 1¼l 2nd to Earth Summit (10-7) (3m, hcap ch, £15,625, 4 ran)
Dec 31, Newbury, heavy: see Master Oats.

CRYSTAL SPIRIT
Jan 14, Ascot, good: (11-10) beat Southolt (11-7) 5l with Camelot Knight (10-2) 3½l 3rd (2m 5f 110yd, hcap ch, £8,403, 8 ran).
Dec 27, Kempton, soft: (12-0) tailed off 4th to Native Pride (10-2) (3m, hcap ch, £7,058, 6 ran).
Dec 10, Cheltenham, good to soft: see Nuaffe.

ZETA'S LAD
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Camelot Knight.
Feb 25, Kempton, heavy: (10-11) no chance when unseated two out behind Val D'Alene (3m, gd III hcap ch, £29,730, 9 ran)
Feb 18, Windsor, heavy: (11-12) beat Royal Athlete (11-4) 2½l (3m, cond ch, £8,169, 4 ran)
Apr 9 1994, Aintree, heavy: see Master Oats.

LUSTY LIGHT
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: (11-3) tailed off when pulled up behind Coulton (11-7) (2m 5f, cond ch, £29,552, 11 ran)
Jan 12, Wincanton, good: (11-10) beat Bradbury Star (11-10) distance (2m 5f, cond ch, £6,677, 5 ran)
Dec 26, Wincanton, good: (11-2) 2l 2nd to Martha's Son (11-10) (2m 5f, cond ch, £7,475, 3 ran)
Dec 3, Chepstow, soft: see Master Oats.

PARTY POLITICS
Feb 25, Haydock, heavy: see Nuaffe.
Dec 31, Newbury, heavy: see Master Oats.
Dec 3, Chepstow, soft: see Master Oats.

NUAFFE
Mar 16, Cheltenham, soft: see Master Oats.
Feb 25, Haydock, heavy: (11-0) beat Riverside Boy (10-13) ½l with Superior Finish (10-2) 15l 3rd, Cool Ground (10-4) tailed when pulled up before last and Party Politics (11-2) pulled up before five out (3m 4f 110yd, hcap ch, £25,523, 10 ran)
Feb 5, Leopardstown, soft to heavy: (12-0) 18l 3rd to Jodami (12-0) with Chatam (12-0) 20½l 5th (3m, gd I ch, £43,750, 6 ran)
Dec 10, Cheltenham, good to soft: (10-0) short-head 2nd to Dublin Flyer (10-2) with Crystal Spirit (10-11) 45l 9th (2m 5f, gd III hcap ch, £38,385, 11 ran)

GENERAL PERSHING
Mar 15, Cheltenham, soft: (11-0) 23l 4th to Kadi (10-4) with Errant Knight (10-3) 10l 5th and Garrison Savannah (10-12) tailed off 8th (2m 4f, hcap ch, £25,927, 12 ran).
Jan 7, Haydock, soft: see Miinnehoma.
Dec 26, Wetherby, good: (10-11) beat Blazing Walker (12-0) 11l (2m 4f 110yd, hcap ch, £6,840, 5 ran)

RIVERSIDE BOY
Mar 18, Uttoxeter, soft: see Dakyns Boy.
Feb 25, Haydock, heavy: see Nuaffe.
Feb 4, Sandown, soft: see Superior Finish.
Jan 7, Sandown, good to soft: (10-12) 1¼l 2nd to Deep Bramble with Cool Ground (10-2) 4l 4th, and Dubacilla (12-0) 1l 5th (3m 5f 110yd, hcap ch, £17,587, 10 ran)
Apr 9, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

TOPSHAM BAY
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Camelot Knight.
Jan 28, Cheltenham, heavy: see Master Oats.
Oct 29, Ascot, good to firm: (11-1) 5l 2nd to Docklands Express (12-0) with Gold Cap (10-0) 4l 3rd (3m 110yd, hcap ch, £8,364, 8 ran).

EBONY JANE
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Camelot Knight.
Feb 19, Punchestown, heavy: (12-0) 21½l 5th to All The Aces (11-5) (2m, hcap ch, £4,795, 9 ran).
Feb 4, Fairyhouse, heavy: (11-4) 10½l 3rd to Bob Devani (9-9) (2m 4f, hcap ch, £6,850, 6 ran).
Apr 9, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

COUNTRY MEMBER
Mar 10, Sandown, good to soft: (11-7) beat Buckboard Bounce (12-7) 1¾l with Cool Ground (11-7) 15l 3rd (3m 110yd, am ch, £5,061, 15 ran).
Feb 4, Sandown, soft: see Superior Finish.
Dec 17, Ascot, good: see Dubacilla.

BISHOPS HALL
Mar 26, Naas, soft: (11-11) 12l 8th to Aerodrome Field (9-8) (3m, ch, £6,850, 11 ran).
Mar 11, Naas, heavy: (11-7) 20l 5th to Johnny Setaside (12-0) (3m, ch, £3,082, 8 ran).
Oct 16, Limerick, good: see Desert Lord.

DAKYNS BOY
Mar 18, Uttoxeter, soft: (10-10) 34l 4th to Lucky Lane (10-0) with The Committee (10-4) pulled up 3 out and Riverside Boy (11-4) pulled up 6 out (4m 2f, hcap ch, £32,045, 10 ran).
Feb 18, Newcastle, good to soft: (11-0) 20l 2nd to Willsford (10-6) with Into The Red (10-6) 22l 4th (4m 1f, hcap ch, £16,327, 10 ran).
Dec 31, Newbury, heavy: see Master Oats.

ERRANT KNIGHT
Mar 15, Cheltenham, soft: see General Pershing.
Nov 12, Cheltenham, good to soft: (10-0) 44l 10th to Bradbury Star (11-11) (2m 4f 110yd, gd III hcap ch, £38,386, 14 ran).

GARRISON SAVANNAH
Mar 15, Cheltenham, soft: see General Pershing.
Feb 23, Wincanton, soft: (11-8) 60l 3rd to Monsieur Le Cure (11-7) with Esha Ness (11-2) pulled up before 15th (3m 1f 110yd, cond ch, £10,286, 6 ran).
Feb 9, Wincanton, soft: (11-10) beat Young Hustler (12-0) 2l with Esha Ness (11-2) distance 3rd and Blazing Walker (12-0) 11l 4th (2m 5f, cond ch, £6,872, 5 ran)
Apr 9, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

COOL GROUND
Mar 28, Sandown, good to firm: (11-7) beat Wild Illusion (12-3) 4l (3m 110yd, am ch, £3,550, 10 ran).
Mar 10, Sandown, good to soft: see Country Member.
Feb 25, Haydock, heavy: see Nuaffe.
Feb 4, Sandown, soft: see Superior Finish.
Jan 7, Sandown, good to soft: see Riverside Boy.
Dec 17, Ascot, good: see Dubacilla.
Dec 3, Chepstow, soft: see Master Oats.

TINRYLAND
Mar 18, Uttoxeter, soft: (11-12) pulled up 2 out behind Baltic Brown (11-7) (2m 5f, hcap ch, £10,747, 8 ran)
Mar 4, Doncaster, good: (12-0) 28l 7th to One More Dream (10-8) (2m 3f 110yd, hcap ch, £7,002, 9 ran)
Apr 27 1993, Ascot, good: (11-10) 25l 5th to Gulburn's Nephew (10-5) (2m, hcap ch, £7,360, 8 ran)

SUPERIOR FINISH
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Do Be Brief.
Feb 25, Haydock, heavy: see Nuaffe.
Feb 4, Sandown, soft: (10-7) 5l 2nd to Deep Bramble (11-10) with Riverside Boy (11-2) 21l 5th, Royal Athlete (11-12) 1l 6th, Country Member (11-1) 20l 7th and Cool Ground (10-7) pulled up 3 out (3m 110yd, gd II hcap ch, £19,560, 11 ran).
Jan 13, Ascot, good: (10-3) 1¼l 2nd to Whispering Steel (11-2) (3m 110yd, hcap ch, £11,793, 5 ran).

FOR WILLIAM
Mar 19, Navan, heavy: (10-7) 13¾l 3rd to Corston Dancer (10-0) (3m, hcap ch, £3,082, 5 ran).
Mar 5, Leopardstown, heavy: (11-4) 27½l 7th to Camgeen Kerria (2m 5f, hcap ch, £6,850, 11 ran).

THE COMMITTEE
Mar 18, Uttoxeter, soft: see Dakyns Boy.
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Camelot Knight.
Jan 8, Stanemore, heavy: beat Laura's Beau 1l (3m, point-to-point, 11 ran).
Mar 15 1994, Cheltenham, good to soft: (10-6) short-head 2nd to Fighting Words (10-7) with Over The Deel (10-0) tailed off when pulled up before 12th (3m 1f, am hcap ch, £17,636, 15 ran)

INTO THE RED
Feb 18, Newcastle, good to soft: see Dakyns Boy.
Jan 7, Warwick, soft: (11-0) distance 4th to Willsford (10-7) (3m 5f, ch, £7,493, 7 ran).
Dec 8, Haydock, heavy: (11-6) every chance when fell 19th behind Viva Bella (10-2) (4m 110yd, hcap ch, £5,199, 8 ran).
Apr 9 1994, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

ESHA NESS
Mar 17, Cheltenham, soft: see Gold Cap.
Mar 4, Doncaster, good: (11-8) 49½l 5th to Meleagris (10-11) (3m 2f, hcap ch, £10,665, 10 ran).
Feb 23, Wincanton, soft: see Garrison Savannah.
Feb 9, Wincanton, soft: see Garrison Savannah.

ROMANY KING
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Camelot Knight.
Feb 24, Haydock, heavy: (11-10) 20l 3rd to Cache Fleur (11-9) (3m, hcap ch, £8,970, 6 ran)
Feb 3, Kelso, good to soft: see Over The Deel.
Apr 9 1994, Aintree, heavy: see Miinnehoma.

GOLD CAP
Mar 17, Cheltenham, soft: (11-13) 5l 3rd to Hill Trix (11-0) with Esha Ness (11-[illegible]) tailed off when pulled up between last two (3m 2f 110yd, hcap ch, £15,500, 9 ran).
Dec 31, Newbury, heavy: see Master Oats.
Oct 29, Ascot, good to firm: see Topsham Bay.

DESERT LORD
Mar 25, Tipperary, heavy: (12-0) 32l 6th to Butches Boy (10-13) (2m, ch, £2,740, 9 ran).
Oct 16, Limerick, good: (10-5) 24l 5th to Monkey Ago (10-3) with Bishops Hall (11-8) pulled up (3m, hcap ch, £12,900, 9 ran).

JUMBEAU
Mar 23, Wincanton, good to soft: (11-9) pulled up before two out behind Sunley Bay (11-3) (3m 1f 110yd, hcap ch, £4,250, 10 ran).
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: see Do Be Brief.

DO BE BRIEF
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: (10-0) 15l 5th to Rough Quest (10-3) with Chatam (11-11) 5l 6th, Jumbeau (10-0) 26l 10th and Superior Finish (10-7) 26l 12th (3m 1f, hcap ch, £32,660, 16 ran).
Mar 2, Ludlow, good to soft: (11-11) 16l 5th to Percy Smollett (11-12) (3m, hcap ch, £4,599, 11 ran).

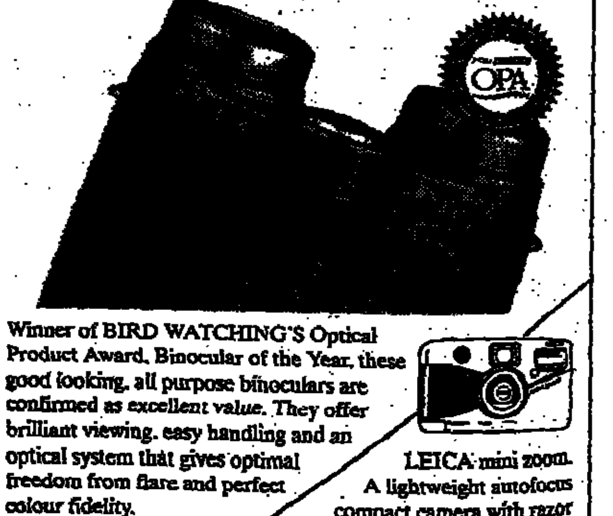
CAMELOT KNIGHT
Mar 14, Cheltenham, soft: (10-6) 20l 3rd to Flyer's Nap (10-3) with Romany King (10-3) 7l 6th, The Committee (10-7) 20l 7th, Ebony Jane (11-0) 5l 10th, Topsham Bay (11-6) pulled up before three out and Zeta's Lad (12-0) pulled up between last two (3m 1f, am hcap ch, £17,779, 10 ran).
Jan 14, Ascot, good: see Crystal Spirit.

OVER THE DEEL
Mar 16, Hexham, heavy: (11-10) 50l 4th to Viva Bella (11-5) (4m, ch, £3,492, 8 ran).
Feb 3, Kelso, good to soft: (10-10) 16½l 4th to Uranus Collonges (10-3) with Romany King (11-6) 5l 5th (3m 4f, hcap ch, £5,937, 9 ran).
Mar 15 1994, Cheltenham, good to soft: see The Committee.

ITS A SNIP
Mar 2, Leicester, heavy: (10-10) over 40l 4th to Lastofthevikings (10-8) (3m, hcap ch, £3,184, 10 ran).
Feb 18, Chepstow, heavy: (10-0) distant 3rd to Lucky Lane (10-11) (3m 2f 110yd, hcap ch, £3,647, 10 ran).

Selection: PARTY POLITICS

YOUR SAFEST BET AT THE GRAND NATIONAL



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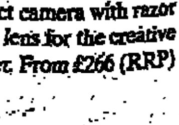

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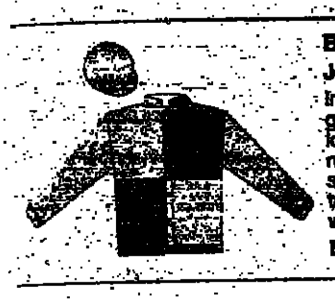
GRAND NATIONAL COLOURS GUIDE AND ANALYSIS

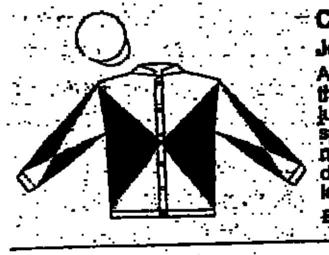


BISHOPS HALL

Jockey: Chris Maude

Irish-trained runner capable of good form on his day but has looked well out of touch in recent runs. Needs to improve substantially on those efforts to take a hand and his case is further weakened by stamina doubts.

Betting: 66-1

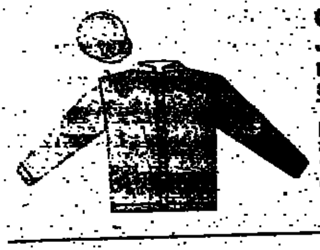


CAMELOT KNIGHT

Jockey: Mark Rimell

A Camelot unlikely to profit from this National lottery. Mostly reliable jumper and stays well, but lacks the spark of pace that seems to be necessary among winners these days. Rimell is among the season's leading amateur riders.

Betting: 100-1

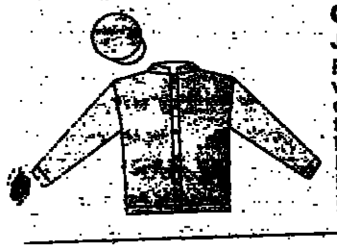


CHATAM

Jockey: Tony McCoy

Nominally one of Martin Pipe's supporting runners to Miinnehoma. Touch of class gives him fair prospects in his own right, although he cannot afford too many of the jumping errors which dot his career record.

Betting: 20-1

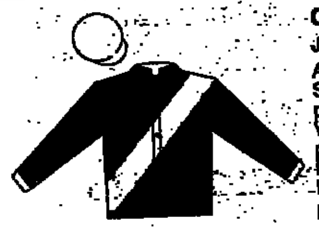


COOL GROUND

Jockey: Paul Holley

Former Cheltenham Gold Cup winner. Clearly not the force of old and Sandown victory last time ended losing run of 20. No 13-year-old has won the National since Sergeant Murphy in 1923. Unlikely fairy-tale.

Betting: 50-1

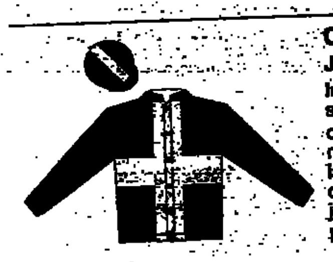


COUNTRY MEMBER

Jockey: Luke Harvey

Arrives via success in same Sandown race used by Turnell's previous National winner, Maori Venture (1987). Harvey's only previous National ride was behind Maori Venture, being unseated before halfway. Live chance.

Betting: 10-1

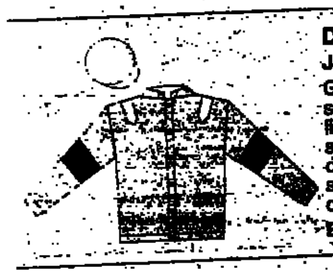


CRYSTAL SPIRIT

Jockey: Jamie Osborne

Interesting mix of stamina and speed. Enough pace to have won over 2½ miles and likely to stay much further. Trainer Ian Balding is better known on the Flat but does well with select band of jumpers. Chance is crystal clear.

Betting: 12-1

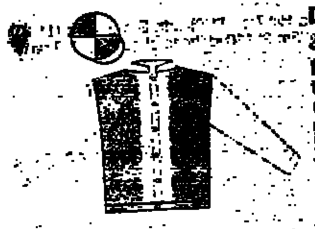


DAKYNS BOY

Jockey: Tom Jenks

Good-class staying chaser two seasons ago (won four times) but lightly-raced and without a win since. Suited by a searching test of stamina although may be better served by softer ground. Outside chance only.

Betting: 50-1

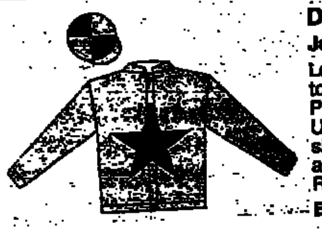


DESERT LORD

Jockey: Francis Woods

Most of his form is at much shorter trips (last two starts have been over just two miles) and on softer ground than he will encounter here. Among the lesser lights of the Irish challenge. First National ride for Woods.

Betting: 66-1

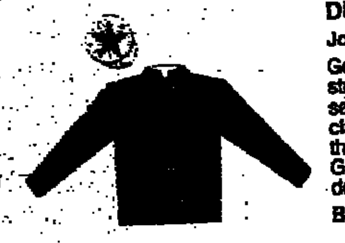


DO BE BRIEF

Jockey: Brendan Powell

Least fancied, at least according to the bookmakers, of Jenny Pitman's six-strong challenge. Unfavourably handicapped and slim chance only for Powell to add to his National victory with Rhyme 'N' Reason in 1988.

Betting: 100-1

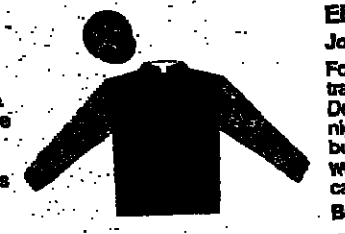


DUBACILLA

Jockey: Dean Gallagher

Gold Cup runner-up, staying on strongly. Half-brother, Just So, was second in last year's National. High class, jumps well and represents the season's leading trainer. Good prospects if not getting detached early on this fast ground.

Betting: 10-1

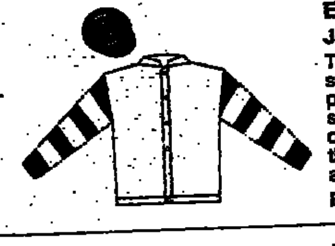


EBONY JANE

Jockey: Adrian Maguire

Fourth last year and has since transferred to top Irish handler Dermot Weld. Hampered by niggling problems this season but pleased in a workout last weekend. Booking of Maguire can only be a plus.

Betting: 20-1

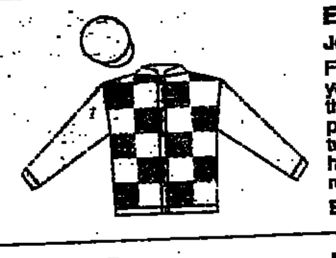


ERRANT KNIGHT

Jockey: Mark Perrett

Two runs over hurdles earlier this season make for an unusual preparation. Little sparkle on subsequent return to larger obstacles and inclusion among the rank outsiders is a fair assessment of his chance.

Betting: 100-1

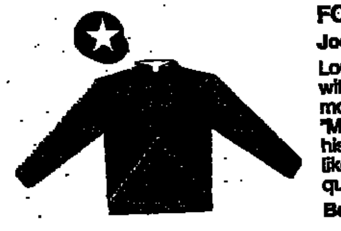


ESHA NESS

Jockey: John White

Finished first in void National two years ago. If justice alone decided the result he would be past the post, but recent efforts, including two failures to complete, suggest his time may have passed. White renews the "successful" association.

Betting: 50-1

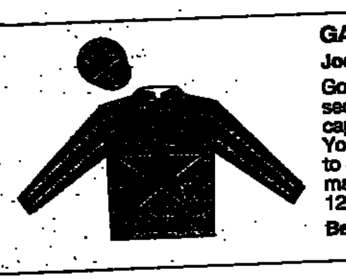


FOR WILLIAM

Jockey: Conor O'Dwyer

Long-priced Irish challenger without a win to his name for more than two years. Trainer "Mouse" Morris, who celebrated his birthday earlier this week, is likely to be disappointed in his quest for a memorable present.

Betting: 100-1

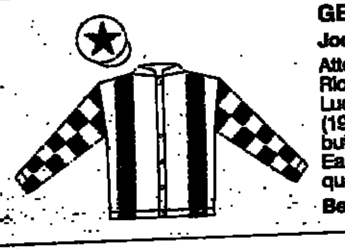


GARRISON SAVANNAH

Jockey: Warren Marston

Gold Cup winner and National second in 1991. Showed he is still capable of good form when beating Young Hustler in February, but has to defy unfavourable handicap mark. Ben Nevis (1980) was the last 12-year-old to succeed.

Betting 25-1

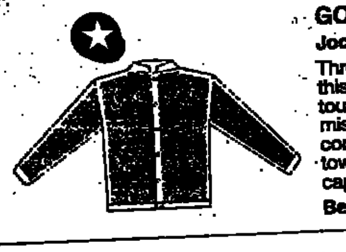


GENERAL PERSHING

Jockey: David Bridgwater

Attempting to give trainer Gordon Richards a third National win after Lucius (1978) and Hallo Dandy (1984). Respectable handicap form but over much shorter trips. Each-way possibilities if questionable stamina holds out.

Betting: 20-1

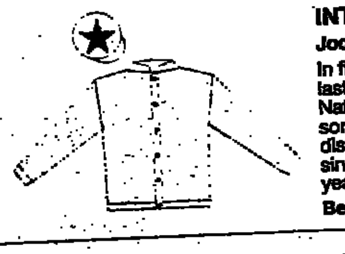


GOLD CAP

Jockey: Graham McCourt

Three wins underline good form this season but this is much tougher. Tendency to jumping mistakes does not inspire confidence, nor does position towards foot of the handicap. A cap unlikely to fit this assignment.

Betting: 50-1

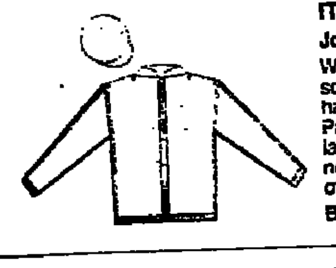


INTO THE RED

Jockey: Richard Guest

In fifth when unseated rider at the last a year ago. Win over the National fences in November offers some encouragement but has disappointed on three outings since. Guest was second three years ago on Romany King.

Betting: 20-1

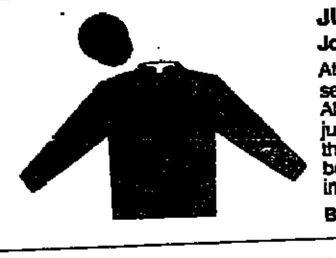


IT'S A SNIP

Jockey: John Kavanagh

Worst horse in the race, and by some way, according to the handicapper. Second in Velka Pardubicka in Czech Republic last October but that form will cut no ice here. British efforts hardly offer much more hope.

Betting: 200-1

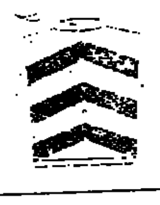


JUMBEAU

Jockey: Simon McNeill

Attempts to give Josh Gifford a second National to go with Aldaniti (1981). Largely sound jumper with two wins to his name this season, but recent form has been disappointing. Significant improvement required.

Betting: 100-1

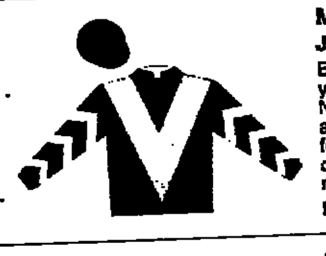


LUSTY LIGHT

Jockey: Rodney Farrant

Improved performer this season (six wins and two worst efforts were attributable to soft ground). Looks best of Jenny Pitman's six entries and can add to connection's National win with Corbiere (1983).

Betting: 14-1

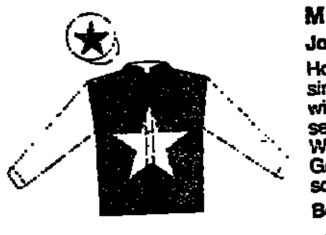


MASTER OATS

Jockey: Norman Williamson

Bids to become first horse for 61 years to complete Gold Cup-National double in same year. Class act but doubts about jumping, as he fell last year and made errors when crowded at Cheltenham, and ground raise serious questions.

Betting: 7-1

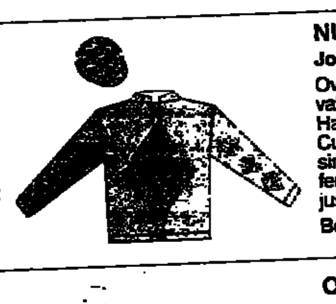


MIINNEHOMA

Jockey: Richard Dunwoody

Horse attempts to become first since Red Rum (1973 and 1974) to win successive Nationals, jockey seeks third big-race victory. Winning form this year and third in Gold Cup but would ideally prefer softer surface.

Betting: 7-1

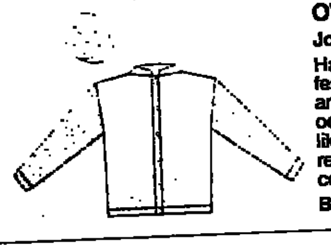


NUAFFE

Jockey: Sean O'Donovan

Overcame jumping errors to win valuable long-distance handicap at Haydock in February. Fell in Gold Cup, although intensive schooling since has reportedly brushed up his fencing. Touch of quality but those jumping howlers are a minus.

Betting: 25-1

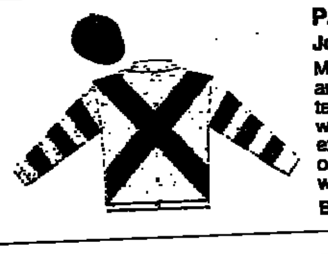


OVER THE DEEL

Jockey: Chris Bonner

Has twice completed over National fences, though not in National itself and well beaten on both occasions. Stays well enough but likely to be short of the pace required to cause a stir in this company.

Betting: 100-1

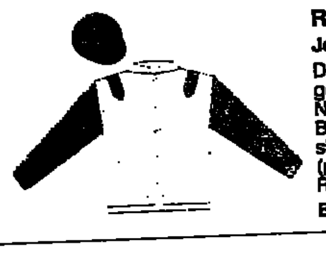


PARTY POLITICS

Jockey: Mark Dwyer

Manifesto based on win in 1992 and pleasing reappearance this term at Chepstow in December when second to Master Oats. Valid excuse when pulled up at Haydock on latest start and should not be written off yet.

Betting: 14-1

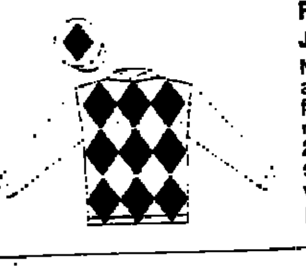


RIVERSIDE BOY

Jockey: Charlie Swan

Dour but unreliable stayer. Some good runs this season (second to Nuaffe at Haydock and to Deep Bramble at Sandown) have rubbed shoulders with less notable efforts (pulled up in Midlands National). Refused last year.

Betting: 50-1

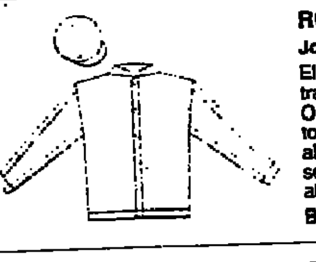


ROMANY KING

Jockey: Marcus Armytage

National second three years ago but came down at the fourth last term. Sketchy recent record, only one win from last 21 starts. Kim Bailey's second string to Master Oats. Armytage won here on Mr Frisk in 1990.

Betting: 40-1

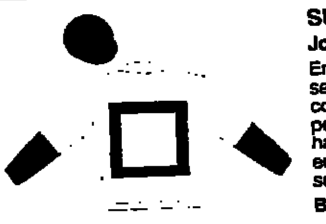


ROYAL ATHLETE

Jockey: Jason Titley

Elder statesman among his trainer's six-strong challenge. Once high-class chaser struggling to regain best form. Flashes of old ability but chasing form this season suggests a tough job ahead. First National ride for Titley.

Betting: 50-1

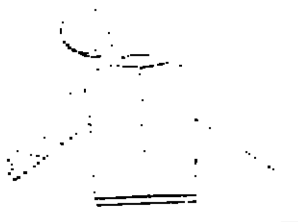


SUPERIOR FINISH

Jockey: Peter Niven

Encouraging first two runs of the season have given way to a couple of rather less eye-catching performances. Unfavourably handicapped and could hardly enter a more demanding arena in search of his best form.

Betting: 40-1

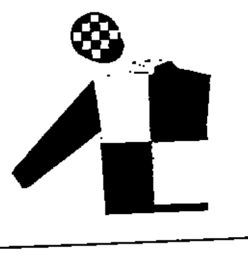


THE COMMITTEE

Jockey: Tsuyoshi Tanaka

Given curiosity value by booking of Japanese jockey. Winning point-to-pointer but without success under Rules since November 1989. Disappointing this term and it will be a surprise if he is up to this standard.

Betting: 100-1

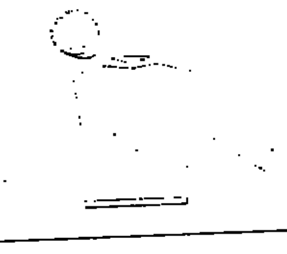


TINRYLAND

Jockey: Mick Fitzgerald

Good-class chaser two seasons ago but missed all of last term. Evidence of a couple of modest runs since return (failed to complete last time) and severe stamina doubts combine to set a mountainous task.

Betting: 100-1

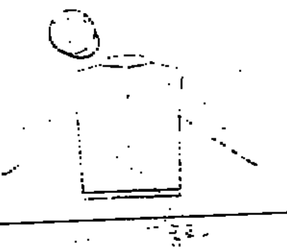


TOPSHAM BAY

Jockey: Philip Hide

Winner of the always competitive Whitbread Gold Cup in 1992 and 1993. Has struggled with soft going last two starts but has traditionally improved with the onset of spring and drier ground. Lively long-shot.

Betting: 33-1

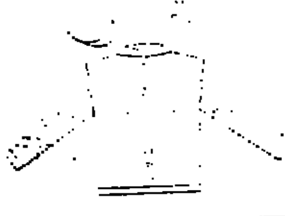


YOUNG HUSTLER

Jockey: Carl Llewellyn

Regular at many of racing's best parties. Rarely runs a bad race, usually in best of company, and can improve significantly on fifth to Master Oats in Gold Cup on unfavourable soft ground. Sound jumper, undeniable chance.

Betting: 7-1



ZETA'S LAD

Jockey: Graham Bradley

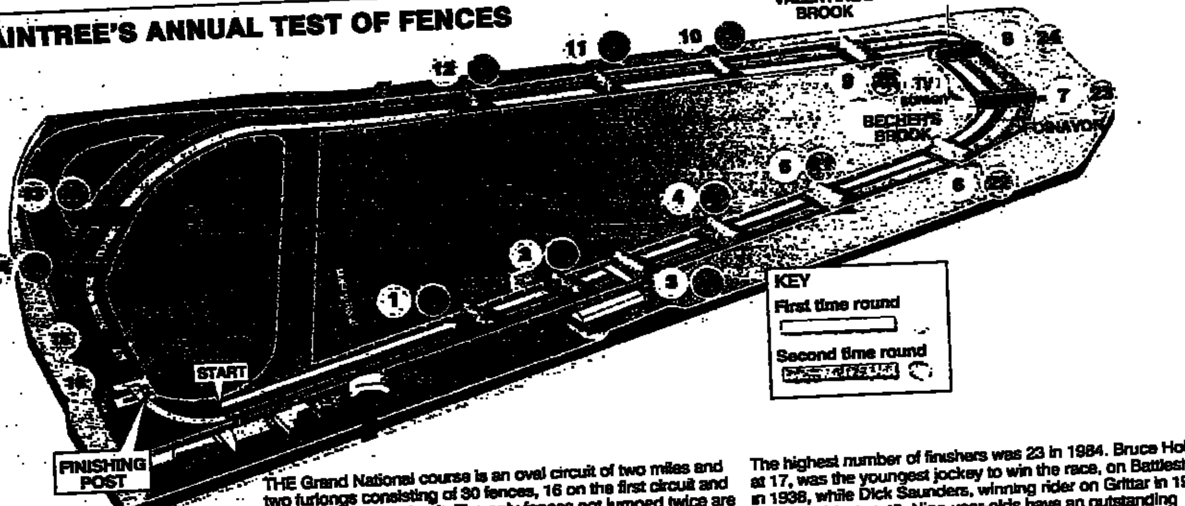
Once high-class handicapper in erratic form this season. Has mustered one win but three other moderate efforts fail to inspire confidence against opponents of this calibre. Well beaten when fell at the last a year ago.

Betting: 50-1

LUSTY LIGHT can crown a memorable season. He has won six times on good or faster ground, conditions he is certain to encounter today, and jumps well enough to suggest that he can negotiate these unique fences. Given that the ground will be a vital factor, **Crystal Spirit** and **Country Member** must also be respected, while **General Pershing** is offered as an each-way possibility. **Young Hustler's** chance is clear but he is poor betting value. The faster conditions may not help **Master Oats**, who also has a question mark against his jumping, **Miinnehoma and Dubacilla**.

VERDICT: 1, LUSTY LIGHT; 2, Crystal Spirit; 3, Country Member; 4, General Pershing.

AINTREE'S ANNUAL TEST OF FENCES



THE Grand National course is an oval circuit of two miles and two furlongs consisting of 30 fences, 16 on the first circuit and 14 on the second circuit. The only fences not jumped twice are The Chair, which at 5ft 2in is the highest, and the water jump. The race was first run on February 26, 1839, when the winner was the aptly-named Lottery. His winning time was 14min 53sec, whereas Mr Frisk, the 1990 winner, triumphed in a record 8min 47.8sec.

A safety limit of 40 runners is now imposed, but in 1929 there were 66 starters. The lowest number of finishers came in 1928 when only two of the 42 that set out completed the course.

The highest number of finishers was 23 in 1984. Bruce Hobbs, at 17, was the youngest jockey to win the race, on Battleship in 1938, while Dick Saunders, winning rider on Grittar in 1982, was the oldest at 48. Nine-year-olds have an outstanding record, with 31 victories this century. Eight-year-olds are the next most successful age bracket, with 14 winners.

Red Rum, is the only horse to have won three Grand Nationals. Successful in 1973, 1974 and 1977, he was also runner-up in 1975 and 1976.

If Miinnehoma repeats last season's sucess today, he will be the first horse to win in successive years since Red Rum

The Grand National.
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THE MARTELL GRAND NATIONAL
4m 4f, Aintree, 3.45pm. Live on BBC.
6/1 Master Oats
7/1 Young Hustler
8/1 Miinnehoma
10/1 Country Member
11/1 Crystal Spirit
11/1 Dubacilla
11/1 Lusty Light
16/1 Party Politics
18/1 Nuaffe
20/1 Chatam
20/1 General Pershing
22/1 Into The Red
25/1 Ebony Jane
25/1 Garrison Savannah
25/1 Topsham Bay
40/1 Superior Finish
50/1 Errant Knight
50/1 Riverside Boy
50/1 Romany King
66/1 Cool Ground
66/1 Dakyns Boy
66/1 Esha Ness
66/1 Gold Cap
66/1 Royal Athlete
66/1 Tinryland
66/1 Zeta's Lad
100/1 Bishops Hall
100/1 Desert Lord
100/1 Do Be Brief
100/1 The Committee
150/1 Camelot Knight
150/1 For William
150/1 Jumbeau
150/1 Over The Deel
200/1 Its A Snip
E/W ONE-QUARTER THE ODDS A PLACE 1,2,3,4.
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12/1 Lusty Light
14/1 Crystal Spirit
16/1 Party Politics
20/1 Ebony Jane
20/1 Garrison Savannah
22/1 General Pershing
22/1 Into The Red
22/1 Topsham Bay
25/1 Chatam
28/1 Nuaffe
50/1 Dakyns Boy
50/1 Esha Ness
50/1 Riverside Boy
50/1 Romany King
50/1 Royal Athlete
50/1 Superior Finish
50/1 Tinryland
66/1 Bishops Hall
66/1 Camelot Knight
66/1 Cool Ground
66/1 Do Be Brief
66/1 Gold Cap
66/1 Zetas Lad
100/1 Errant Knight
100/1 The Committee
150/1 Desert Lord
150/1 For William
150/1 Jumbeau
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League millions threaten union's new-found appeal

David Hands assesses the impact the battle for the professional game will have on its rugby rival

Rugby union, a sport in philosophical turmoil, will observe intently *the battle being waged for the* rival code. Whatever impact News Limited's millions have on rugby league, they will also affect, collectively and individually, *the 15-a-side game.* With a World Cup to be played this summer and new luminaries certain to emerge, it is impos*sible that they will not.*

This much has been acknowledged by Dudley Wood, secretary of the Rugby Football Union. "We obviously have to keep a close eye on the implications," Wood said, "even if all we have to go on is what we read in the papers."

But the bid to establish the Star League by News Limited, the Australian arm of The News Corporation, the parent company of *The Times*, adds a dimension to rugby union's endeavours to puts its own house in order. It has a far broader base than rugby league, appeals to a different public for different reasons, and has a greater diversity of financial support, both from its own efforts — through international gate receipts — and the across-the-board commercial support it attracts.

But it needs to know where it is going. In terms of rewarding players for their sporting achievements, rugby union is still wrestling with the devil. *In terms of continuity* for its international flagship, the World Cup, key appointments remain outstanding, though they are due to be decided this year.

Union adherents argue that rugby league has long been a game waiting for such a massive cash injection to project itself internationally, in a way it has been unable to do for a century outside Australasia and the north of England. They also claim that a game that places all its eggs so firmly in one basket will lose touch with its roots.

But clearly rugby union will lose some of its most talented individuals. Such losses to league have always occurred and union's recuperative powers have filled the gaps, but the difference now is that a generation of rugby union *players is growing up seeing* the sport as a potential end in itself, not as an enjoyable diversion from a full-time career.

Hence the reason for the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB) to get its act together. In August, it will *meet in Paris to decide how* professional players can become. After years of slow removal from the amateur ethic, *it is time to cease* procrastination and proclaim: "Here we stand." The southern hemisphere nations, those *with most to lose to a fortified* rugby league, will insist upon a semi-professional game but they need to understand that *rugby union has strengths of* its own, that the payment of money is not the simple difference between the rugby codes.

This is only part of the leadership problem that stalks rugby union. The board *must also address this year* the appointment of a secretary or chief executive in succession to Keith Rowlands, the appointment of a Rugby World Cup chief executive, and of an international development officer.

The sport dare not become *embroiled in the horse trading that was evident before* the award of the 1999 World Cup to Wales, nor the politicking that may lead the board to take up residence in some neutral home such as Lucerne, such is the desire of the *southern hemisphere to see* the global headquarters removed from the influence of the four home unions.

Above all, rugby union must remember that, as its boundaries have widened, so its traditional, knowledgeable support has become smaller. *The public enjoys sport it can* understand and, for much of the time, rugby union is incomprehensible in its inter*pretation of the laws, on and* off the field. If, as seems likely, existing players are creamed off for the short-term gain their names will bring rather than their potential as rugby league players, and a curious public that has no traditional affection and understanding *for rugby union goes with* them, they may not return.

Northern clubs set to have last laugh

By David Hands

WHEN the Courage Clubs Championship began this *season, many pundits predict*ed the imminent demise from the first division of the northern clubs. Today Sale and Orrell stand proud in the top half of the table, while West Hartlepool, though under threat, may yet consolidate their place among the cream.

So when such clubs as Northampton and Harlequins, threatened by relegation, talk in terms of *targetting Orrell as opponents* they must beat to survive, the sound of hollow Lancastrian laughter rings loud.

"If we can finish fourth we will be over the moon," Orrell's Des Seabrook said. "I am amazed that Harlequins have rested their internationals for their game with Leicester. You didn't need to be a prophet to know that Leicester would rest their stars with their critical game against Bath coming up next week. Harlequins could have turned out a full side in the *hope of winning, rather than* waiting until they come to us where they have never won."

It irks the northern clubs, too, that between them they give only three players to England's summer touring sides. Orrell's players will make their point at Northampton today where the bottom club throw all their caps — three from England, one from Scotland — into the *balance in the hope of making* up ground on Harlequins.

The quarter-finals of the Swalec Cup in Wales bring together Pontypridd and Mountain Ash, who three days ago lost their coach, Ian Stephens. Local rivalries may help bridge the gap between first and third divisions. Jonathan Mason, capped once by Wales in 1988, is only one of several former Pontypridd players now available to Mountain Ash.

Williams watches his protégés prepare for their opening World League match against Rhein Fire tomorrow. Photograph: Gary Anthony

Scots look to inspirational country boy

Andrew Longmore meets a renowned quarterback tackling a fresh challenge

Doug Williams surveyed the Firth from *his hotel window and* reckoned, as a fine mist came down on a spring afternoon, that it looked a little like the *Mississippi.* "Except that you can see the other side." Williams does a reasonable impersonation of Ol' Man River *himself, rolling along through* life, taking the odd tributary, finding shelter for a year or two and now lapping against *the shores of East Scotland* as the offensive co-ordinator of the Edinburgh-based Scottish Claymores, who open their campaign in the revived World League of American Football at Murrayfield against Rhein Fire tomorrow.

But we should roll the *credits first.* Seven years ago, Williams became the first black quarterback to play in the Super Bowl and, though *he has long since forgotten* how to get angry about it, he will carry that tag to the end of his days.

He was more than a convenient hatstand for history, though. On a sharp night in San Diego, he took the hopes of millions of black Ameri*cans onto the field and thrust* them right down the throats of those who saw the position of quarterback as a symbol of white supremacy. Williams led Washington Redskins to a 42-10 victory over Denver Broncos, throwing four touchdown passes in the second quarter.

At the time, Williams, who called himself "a country boy" from the deep south, tried *vainly to deflect the race issue.* Though mellower now, four months before his 40th birthday, he is still singing the *same refrain.* "No *one had to* tell me I was a black quarterback. I saw my face in the mirror every morning. I just *refused to let people make* something of it. But what I do remember was that I had a lot of people pulling for me and a *lot of people who wanted me* to fail so that they could say 'I told you so'".

They never had the chance. *Williams will never be brack*eted with Joe Montana or Steve Young as one of the game's great quarterbacks.

Too much of his career was *spent in unfashionable places* like Tampa Bay, Oklahoma or Arizona. He had one mighty season with the Red*skins, one mighty game if it* comes down to it. But that is enough to inspire a sense of awe in the fresh-faced quarter*backs who are aiming to lead* the Claymores to the World League Super Bowl this year. At 6ft 4in and nearly 16 stone, Williams's physical presence *is big enough to ensure atten*tion well before he raises his cavernous bass voice.

"If you mess up, he lets you know about it, for sure," *Lee* Williamson, the Claymores' starting quarterback, said. "But he'll praise you if you do it right. There's not one person on this team who doesn't respect him for what he has done in the game."

But football is not the half *of it.* Williams's first wife, his childhood sweetheart, died from a brain tumour just 11 months after they were married. Yesterday was the twelfth anniversary of her death, a day when Zachary, the little Louisiana town where he was born and still lives, *will have seemed more* than an ocean away.

Williams tells the story of the father who, in 1983, *tracked him all the way to* Oklahoma to talk to him. "He said that his son had died of the same thing, but that his son had lived a whole life and that my wife had done the same. However long you live, that's a full life. Somehow, when I got to looking at it that way, it seemed to make some sense of the questions I had been asking."

Now remarried, Williams *has four children* — two boys and two girls — and a healthy belief that tomorrow never comes. Coaching at his own *high school, on the Doug* Williams field, and at college has given him the most enjoyment. "Watching them find out about themselves, watching them cry when they lose."

The World League is as much an opportunity for him to step up as for some of the *Claymore players, though.* But the suggestion that he might have some unfinished business with the National *Football League* after being dumped with undue haste by the Redskins prompts only a laugh like a clap of thunder.

"Yeah, they could give me *some back-pay.*" He shakes his head. "If a job in the NFL came along, I'd be crazy not to consider it. But, right now, all *that's buzzing around in my* brain is how to get that first down on Sunday."

Out to conquer small world

WLAF TEAMS

Frankfurt Galaxy
London Monarchs
Amsterdam Admirals
Barcelona Dragons
Scottish Claymores
Rhein Fire

THE World League of American Football that kicks off in Frankfurt and Amsterdam tonight is a much-changed creature from the one that bowed out in Montreal in 1992 (Richard Wetherell writes). In spite of its title, and even with the base of American players and *coaches, this is no transatlan*tic enterprise as the six teams are all based in Europe. Replacing the one Canadian and half-dozen American teams are Rhein Fire, the Amsterdam Admirals and the Scottish Claymores. They join the returning *London* Monarchs, Barcelona Dragons and Frankfurt Galaxy.

Backed by the NFL and Fox TV, there is a concentration on consolidation rather than headstrong ideas about global *expansion. The standard* of play is likely to be higher than previously with NFL teams donating players, especially young quarterbacks. There were 40 World League alumni in the last NFL season.

As usual there has been some fiddling around with the rules under the guise of innovation, the most noticeable being that field goals from more than 50 yards are worth four points instead of three. Another break with tradition *are the lurid uniforms* which have attracted much comment, mostly of the unfavourable variety.

The route to the final — the *World Bowl — is just as* unusual as the shirts. The team with the best record after the first five games of the *season will host the team with* the best record in the second five games.

COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
** denotes all-ticket*
pools coupon numbers in brackets

FA Carling Premiership

(1) Newcastle v Norwich
(2) Nottingham Forest v West Ham
(3) * QPR v Arsenal
(-) Sheff Wed v Leicester

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	36	25	7	4	73	30	82
Man Utd	36	22	8	6	66	24	74
Newcastle	35	18	10	7	57	37	64
Nottm Forest	36	18	9	9	63	39	63
Liverpool	33	17	10	6	57	27	61
Leeds	35	15	11	9	48	33	56
Tottenham	34	14	10	10	55	46	52
Wimbledon	35	15	6	14	45	57	51
QPR	34	13	8	13	51	51	47
Arsenal	35	11	10	14	41	41	43
Aston Villa	36	10	13	13	47	48	43
Sheff Wed	36	11	10	15	44	53	43
Coventry	36	10	13	13	37	54	43
Norwich	36	10	12	14	34	44	42
Chelsea	34	10	11	13	41	47	41
Man City	35	10	11	14	44	54	41
Southampton	34	8	15	11	49	57	39
Everton	35	9	12	14	38	48	39
Crystal Palace	34	9	11	14	25	35	38
West Ham	34	10	7	17	33	44	37
Leicester	36	5	9	22	40	70	24
Ipswich	35	6	5	24	31	80	23

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division

(4) Bolton v West Bromwich
(5) Bristol City v Tranmere
(6) Derby v Sunderland
(7) Grimsby v Reading
(8) Luton v Notts County
(9) Middlesbrough v Stoke
(10) Millwall v Charlton
(11) Port Vale v Watford
(12) Portsmouth v Sheffield Utd
(13) Southend v Burnley
(14) Swindon v Oldham
(—) Wolverhampton v Barnsley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesbrough	40	21	9	10	59	34	72
Tranmere	39	20	8	11	62	44	68
Bolton	38	19	11	8	61	37	68
Wolves	38	20	7	11	65	49	67
Reading	40	19	9	12	48	37	66
Sheff Utd	40	16	14	10	64	45	62
Barnsley	38	18	8	12	57	45	62
Derby	39	17	10	12	55	40	61
Grimsby	40	14	13	13	57	52	55
Watford	39	14	13	12	44	42	55
Millwall	40	14	12	14	62	53	54
Luton	39	14	11	14	55	56	53
Oldham	39	14	11	14	52	51	53
Charlton	39	14	10	15	50	54	52
West Brom	40	14	8	18	42	52	50
Port Vale	40	13	10	17	51	58	49
Stoke	38	12	13	13	38	43	49
Southend	40	13	8	19	42	67	47
Portsmouth	40	11	12	17	45	59	45
Sunderland	40	10	15	15	35	40	45
Burnley	40	10	11	19	42	65	41
Bristol City	40	10	11	19	38	56	41
Swindon	39	10	10	19	45	65	40
Notts County	39	8	10	21	42	57	34

Second division

(15) Bournemouth v Wycombe
(16) Bradford v Stockport
(17) Brighton v Hull
(18) Cambridge Utd v Peterborough
(19) Cardiff v Rotherham
(20) Chester v Bristol Rovers
(21) Huddersfield v Swansea
(22) Leyton Orient v Crewe
(23) Oxford Utd v Brentford
(24) Plymouth v Shrewsbury
(25) Wrexham v York

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30): London Kay Trophy: Semi-final: Camden v Hackney (at Parliament Hill). Oxford County Cup: Vale of White Horse v Oxford (at Wantage). English Haugh Trophy: Semi-final: South East Sussex v Croydon (at Eastbourne Town). Charlton Trophy: Southampton v Portsmouth (at Studland Road). London Pearl Trophy: Semi-final: Newham v Islington (at Langdon). Leicester Finch Trophy: Wandsworth v Bexley (at Tooting). Alder Cup: Sefton v Blackpool (at Netherton). Snowdon Cup: Halton v Kirkby Knowsley (at Halsby). Surrey Black Cup: Kingston v Sutton (at Hollyfield)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brentford	39	23	7	9	72	31	76
Huddersfield	40	21	12	7	72	42	75
Birmingham	38	20	12	6	70	30	72
Bristol Rovers	39	18	14	7	62	35	68
Oxford Utd	40	19	10	11	60	47	67
Wycombe	39	17	14	8	50	40	65
Crewe	38	19	6	13	65	62	63
Swansea	39	16	14	9	51	38	62
Blackpool	41	17	10	14	60	59	61
Hull	39	17	10	12	59	49	61
York	40	18	7	15	56	47	61
Bradford	40	16	11	13	56	55	59
Wrexham	39	14	14	11	60	55	56
Stockport	40	16	7	17	55	54	55
Peterborough	40	12	16	12	50	64	52
Brighton	40	12	14	14	47	46	50
Rotherham	40	12	12	16	51	56	48
Shrewsbury	39	11	13	15	48	51	46
Cambridge Utd	40	8	14	18	47	55	38
Bournemouth	40	9	11	20	40	65	38
Cardiff	40	9	9	22	43	66	36
Plymouth	39	9	8	22	38	73	35
Leyton Orient	39	6	8	25	28	62	26
Chester	40	4	9	27	33	79	21

Third division

(26) Barnet v Mansfield
(27) Carlisle v Gillingham
(28) Doncaster v Walsall
(29) Fulham v Hartlepool
(30) Hereford v Colchester
(31) Lincoln v Chesterfield
(32) Northampton v Darlington
(33) Rochdale v Scunthorpe
(34) * Scarborough v Preston
(35) Torquay v Bury
(36) Wigan v Exeter

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlisle	36	24	10	2	61	24	82
Chesterfield	36	19	11	6	51	32	68
Walsall	34	19	9	6	64	36	66
Bury	35	18	9	8	56	33	63
Mansfield	36	17	7	12	74	49	58
Preston	36	16	9	11	51	37	57
Doncaster	36	15	10	11	47	31	55
Scunthorpe	36	15	7	14	57	50	52
Barnet	36	14	10	12	46	49	52
Colchester	35	14	8	13	44	52	50
Fulham	35	12	13	10	49	46	49
Torquay	36	12	9	15	45	51	45
Lincoln	35	12	9	14	44	46	45
Rochdale	35	11	12	12	41	54	45
Wigan	35	11	10	14	46	50	43
Hereford	36	10	10	16	38	55	40
Darlington	36	10	7	19	36	43	37
Gillingham	35	8	10	17	38	52	34
Northampton	36	7	13	16	37	54	34
Hartlepool	36	8	9	19	34	62	33
Exeter	36	8	8	20	32	61	32
Scarborough	35	7	8	20	40	58	29

Vauxhall Conference

(—) Bath v Merthyr
(37) Dagenham and Red v Northwich
(38) Halifax v Stalybridge
(—) Runcorn v Altrincham
(39) Southport v Yeovil
(—) Telford v Stevenage
(—) Welling v Macclesfield

UniBond League
Premier division

(—) Accrington Stanley v Knowsley
(—) Bishop Auckland v Chorley
(—) Buxton v Barrow
(—) Emley v Droylsden
(—) Gainsborough v Colwyn Bay
(40) Horwich v Matlock
(41) Spennymoor v Boston
(42) Winsford v Morecambe
(43) Witton v Guiseley

Tennents Scottish Cup
Semi-final

(—) Airdrie v Hearts
(at Hampden Park, 2.0)

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division

(44) Falkirk v Dundee Utd
(45) Motherwell v Partick
(—) Rangers v Aberdeen

First division

(46) Dundee v Ayr
(47) Hamilton v St Johnstone
(48) Raith v St Mirren
(49) Stranraer v Dunfermline

Second division

(50) Berwick v Stenhousemuir
(51) Brechin v Queen Of South
(52) Clyde v Dumbarton
(53) Greenock Morton v East Fife
(54) Stirling v Meadowbank

Third division

(55) Arbroath v Ross County
(56) Caley This v Alloa
(57) Cowdenbeath v Albion
(58) Forfar v East Stirling

FA UMBRO TROPHY: Semi-final, first leg: Kidderminster v Hyde, Rushden and Diamonds v Woking

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone v Corby, Cheltenham v Worcester, Crawley v Cambridge City, Dorchester v Gravesend and Northfleet, Gresley v VS Rugby, Halesowen v Burton, Hednesford v Chelmsford, Leek v Gloucester, Sittingbourne v Trowbridge, Sudbury v Solihull. Southern division: Ashford v Bury Town, Bashley v Clevedon, Braintree v Tonbridge AFC, Burnham v Baldock, Erith and Belvedere v Wealdstone, Fareham v Weymouth, Havant v Poole, Margate v Witney, Newport IOW v Salisbury, Weston-super-Mare v Waterlooville, Yate v Fisher 93. Midland division: Bedworth v RC Warwick, Buckingham Town v Bilston, Evesham v Rothwell, Hinckley Town v Dudley Town, Ilkeston v Redditch, King's Lynn v Leicester United, Moor Green v Forest Green, Newport AFC v Grantham, Stourbridge v Armitage, Sutton Coldfield v Bridgnorth, Tamworth v Nuneaton.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishop's Stortford v Carshalton, Chesham v Harrow, Dulwich v Hitchin, Grays v Molesey, Hendon v Kingstonian, Marlow v Aylesbury, Slough v Hayes (2.00), St Albans v Bromley, Sutton United v Enfield, Walton and Hersham v Wokingham, Yeading v Purfleet. First division: Abingdon Town v Staines, Aldershot Town v Ruislip Manor, Billericay v Uxbridge, Bognor Regis v Berkhamsted, Boreham Wood v Tooting and Mitcham, Chertsey v Worthing, Heybridge Swifts v Basingstoke, Leyton v Barking, Maidenhead v Newbury, Wembley v Dorking, Whyteleafe v Wivenhoe. Second division: Aveley v Bracknell, Barton v Croydon, Egham v Hampton, Hemel Hempstead v Chalfont St Peter, Hungerford v Witham, Leatherhead v Thame, Malden Vale v Edgware, Metropolitan Police v Banstead, Oxford City v Windsor and Eton, Saffron Walden v Cheshunt, Ware v Tilbury. Third division: Bedford Town v Horsham, Camberley v Hornchurch, Collier Row v Feltham and Hounslow, Epsom and Ewell v East Thurrock, Harlow v Tring, Kingsbury v Harefield, Leighton v Clapton, Lewes v Flackwell Heath, Northwood v Hertford, Southall v Cove.

UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division: Ashton United v Gretna, Congleton v Blyth Spartans, Atherton LR v Farsley Celtic, Bamber Bridge v Eastwood Town, Fleetwood v Alfreton, Goole v Workington, Harrogate Town v Caernarfon, Mossley v Lancaster, Radcliffe v Netherfield, Warrington v Curzon Ashton, Worksop v Great Harwood

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Bangor City v Ton Pentre, Barry v Flint Town, Connah's Quay v Llanelli, Cwmbran v Conwy, Ebbw Vale v Holywell, Maesteg Park v Rhyl, Mold v Inter Cardiff, Newtown v Aberystwyth (2.30), Porthmadog v Afan Lido

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Bowers v Sawbridgeworth, Burnham Ramblers v Concord, Eton Manor v Ford, Great Wakering Rovers v East Ham, Hullbridge Sports v Basildon, Maldon v Stansted, Romford v Brentwood

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Barkingside v Haringey, Beaconsfield Sycob v Waltham Abbey, Cockfosters v Croydon, Corinthian-Casuals v Hanwell, St Margaretsbury v Walthamstow Pennant, Tower Hamlets v Brook House, Willesden v Hillingdon

PARASOL COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Ash v Godalming and Guildford, Ashford v Peppard, Bedfont v Horley, Cranleigh v DCA Basingstoke, Merstham v Eton Wick, Netherne v Hartley Wintney, Sandhurst v Cobham, Viking Sports v Chipstead. Vase: Second round: Westfield v Farnham

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: Brache Sparta v Arlesey Town, Harpenden v Buckingham Athletic, Hatfield v Hoddesdon, Langford v Wingate and Finchley, Letchworth Garden City v Biggleswade, Royston v Dunstable, Shillington v Potters Bar, Welwyn Garden City v Milton Keynes. O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Totternhoe v Toddington

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Westbury, Calne v Bridport, Chippenham v Mangotsfield, Frome v Torrington, Liskeard v Elmore

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chatteris v Tiptree, Diss v Cornard, Hadleigh U v Great Yarmouth, Halstead v Soham, Haverhill v Felixstowe, Histon v Wroxham, Lowestoft v Wisbech, Newmarket v Harwich and Parkeston, Stowmarket v March, Sudbury v Fakenham, Woodbridge v Watton.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Lymington v Cowes Sports, Aerostructures v Fleet, Andover v Wimborne, B.A.T. v Ryde Sports, Bemerton Heath v Bournemouth, Christchurch v Gosport, Downton v Eastleigh, East Cowes v Horndean, Portsmouth v Totton, Swanage and Herston v Petersfield, Thatcham v Brockenhurst.

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: East Grinstead v Pagham, Eastbourne Town v Portfield, Hailsham v Burgess Hill, Langney Sports v Southwick, Littlehampton v Peacehaven/Telscombe, Oakwood v Arundel, Stamco v Whitehawk, Three Bridges v Newhaven, Wick v Shoreham.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Chatham v Deal, Corinthian v Dartford, Cray v Canterbury, Folkestone Invicta v Furness, Greenwich v Faversham, Herne Bay v Slade Green, Sheppey v Beckenham, Thamesmead v Ramsgate, Tunbridge Wells v Whitstable

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Abingdon v Cirencester, Banbury v Kintbury, Bicester v Almondsbury, Brackley v Pegasus Juniors, Carterton v Shortwood, Cinderford v Fairford, Swindon Supermarine v North Leigh, Tuffley v Highworth.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cogenhoe v Wellingborough, Desborough v Stotfold, Mirrlees Blackstone v Kempston, Northampton Spencer v Boston, Spalding v Eynesbury, Stamford v Holbeach, Wootton v Raunds.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Barwell v Chasetown, Boldmere St Michaels v Oldbury, Bolehall Swifts v Stratford, Brierley Hill v Knypersley, Rocester v Hinckley Athletic, Sandwell v Shepshed D, Shifnal v Stapenhill, West Midlands Police v Pershore, Willenhall v Paget.

SKOL MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Chelmsley v Sherwood Celtic, Coleshill v Highgate, Handrahan Timbers v Alvechurch Villa, Knowle v West Midland Fire Service, Meir KA v Kings Heath, Northfield v Wellesbourne, Olton Royale v Bloxwich, Shirley v Upton.

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Bloxwich v Manders, Cradley v Pelsall Villa, Darlaston FC v Stourport, Gornal v Tividale F C, Hill Top v Lye, Ludlow v Ettingshall, Malvern v Bilston, Wednesfield v Blakenall, Westfields v Stafford FC. Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Great Wyrley v Moxley

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Armthorpe Welfare v Liversedge, Ashfield v Arnold, Brigg v Maltby MW, Denaby v Lincoln United, Hucknall v Stocksbridge PS, North Ferriby v Thackley, Ossett Albion v Belper Town, Pickering v Ossett Town, Pontefract Collieries v Hallam, Sheffield v Glasshoughton Wel

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Blackpool Rovers v Skelmersdale, Bootle v Darwen, Burscough v Maine Road, Chadderton v Clitheroe, Eastwood H v Holker Old Boys, Kidsgrove v Bacup, Newcastle Town v Rossendale, Penrith v Salford. Cup: Semi-final, second leg: Nantwich v Prescot, Trafford v Tetley Walker

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Dunston F B v Bedlington Terriers, Durham v Prudhoe, Eppleton v Shildon, Hebburn v Chester-le-Street, Northallerton v West Auckland, Peterlee v Consett, RTM Newcastle v Guisborough, Seaham Red Star v Tow Law, Whitby v Murton.

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Arsenal v Bristol Rovers; West Ham v Bristol City (2.0).

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Cork v Athlone (7.45); Galway v St Patrick's Ath (7.00).

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Semi-final: Sligo v Shelbourne (at Showgrounds, 7.30)

BASS IRISH CUP: Semi-final: Ards v Linfield (at Oval).

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Millwall; Fulham v Chelsea; Gillingham v Portsmouth; Leyton Orient v Cambridge Utd; Q.P.R. v Southend; Tottenham v West Ham. Second division: Brentford v Bristol City; Brighton v Luton; Bristol Rovers v Tottenham; Oxford Utd v Crystal Palace; Southampton v Wycombe

FA YOUTH CUP: Semi-final: Second leg: Wimbledon v Manchester.

AFA SENIOR CUP: Final: Civil Service v Nat West Bank.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Aldenhamians v Wellingburians; Brentwoods v Etonians, Lancing v Chigwellians; Malvernians v Carthusians; Division One: Ardinians v Salopians; Foresters v Cholmeleians; Westminsters v Haileyburians, Witleians v Bradfieldians.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Glyn v O Danes; O Aloysians v Cardinal Manning; O Tenisonians v O Meadonians. O Wilsonians v O Ignatians. Senior first division: Latymer v O Tenisonians Res; O Edmontonians v Shene; O Isleworthians v O Wokingians; O Salvatorians v O Suttonians; O Tiffinians v O Kingsburians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Crouch End Vampires v Old Esthameians; East Barnet OG v Winchmore Hill, Midland Bank v Old Actonians; Norsemen v South Bank Poly; Broomfield v Carshalton; Lloyds Bank v Alexandra Park; Old Bromleians v Lensbury; Old Parkonians v Old Westminster Ctz.; Old Stationers v Old Parmiterians, Polytechnic v Kew Association; Cuaco v Southgate Olympic; Old Salesians v Barclays Bank; Ibis v Old Lyonians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior One: Mill Hill Village v St Marys College; Wandsworth Boro v Ulysses, Witan v Southgate County. Senior Two: Albanian R v Hadley; Duncombe Sports v Corinthian-Casuals; Honourable Artillery Co v Old Bealonians; Old Fairlopians v Hale End; UCL Academicals v Ealing Association. Senior Three: Brent v City of London; Fulham Compton OB v Polygons; Old Colfeians v Birkbeck College, Old Monovians v Old Woodhouseians; Westerns v BBC. Senior Four: Bourneside v Cardinal Pole, Economicals v Hampstead Heathens; Inland Revenue v Pegasus; London Airways v Old Simmarians; Mayfield v Cenymca. Senior Cup: Final: Old Owens v Nottsborough

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Egremont v Wigan St Patricks (2.30); Hemel Hempstead v Askam (2.30); Heworth v Leigh M W (2.30).

BNFL NATIONAL CUP: Quarter-finals: Hensingham v Mayfield; Millom v West Hull; Thornhill v West Bowling; Barrow Island v Woolston.

OWENS-CORNING STUDENTS FOUR NATIONS' CHAMPIONSHIP: England v Ireland (Widnes RLFC, 3.0); Scotland v Wales (Leigh Miners, 3.0)

RUGBY UNION

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Courage clubs championship
First division

Bath v West Hartlepool
Bristol v Gloucester
Leicester v Harlequins
Northampton v Orrell (2.15)
Sale v Wasps

Second division

Coventry v Waterloo
Fylde v Saracens
Moseley v London Irish
Nottingham v Newcastle Gosforth
Wakefield v London Scottish

Third division

Bedford v Otley
Clifton v Harrogate
Morley v Blackheath
Richmond v Exeter
Rosslyn Park v Rugby

Fourth division

Aspatria v Askeans
Havant v Liverpool St Helens
Leeds v Plymouth
Reading v Rotherham
Redruth v Broughton Park

Fifth division north

Barkers Butts v Wharfedale
Hereford v Birmingham Solihull
Stoke v Nuneaton
Stourbridge v Sheffield
Walsall v Preston Grasshoppers
Winnington Park v Lichfield

Fifth division south

Henley v Lydney
Met Police v London Welsh
North Walsham v High Wycombe
Sudbury v Barking
Tabard v Berry Hill
Weston-super-Mare v Camborne

LONDON: First division: Ealing v Eton Manor; Esher v Maidstone; Guildford and Godalming v Harlow; Old Colfeians v Camberley; Ruislip v Sutton and Epsom; Southend v Streatham and Croydon.

SOUTH WEST: First division: Maidenhead v Taunton; Newbury v Salisbury; Torquay v Cheltenham; St. Ives v Barnstaple, Sherborne v Brixham; Stroud v Cinderford.

MIDLANDS: First division: Bedworth v Burton; Mansfield v Leamington; Syston v Derby; Towcestrians v Westleigh; Wolverhampton v Whitchurch; Worcester v Stafford.

NORTH: First division: Bradford and Bingley v Wigton; Durham City v Tyndale; Huddersfield v Stockton; Sandal v Middlesbrough; Widnes v Hull Ionians; York v Manchester.

Swalec Cup
Quarter-finals

Cardiff v Aberavon (2.30)
Llanelli v Bridgend (2.30)
Newbridge v Swansea (2.30)
Pontypridd v Mountain Ash (2.30)

Heineken League
Second division

Abercynon v Tenby Utd (2.30)
Cross Keys v Bonymaen (2.30)
Maesteg v Narberth (2.30)
Penarth v Llandovery (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Aberavon Quins v Kenfig Hill; Glamorgan Wanderers v Blaina; Tredegar v Blackwood.

Insurance Corporation League
First division

Lansdowne v Young Munster (2.30)
Sunday's Well v Cork Constitution (2.30)

Club matches

Pontypool v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Tondu v South Wales Police (2.30)

Representative matches

Scotland under-18 v Ireland under-18 (at Ayr)
Scottish Schools v Irish Schools (at Balgary, Glasgow)

HOCKEY

MEN: Club matches: Bath Buccaneers v Wiltshire; Brooklands v Norton, Bury St Edmunds v Cambridge City, Chelmsford v Canterbury; City of Portsmouth v Old Walcountians; Sheffield v Harrogate.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Bracknell v Hightown; Clifton v Balsam Leicester; First Personnel Sutton Coldfield v. Chelmsford; Ipswich v Slough. First division: Blueharts v Wimbledon; Canterbury v Ealing; Doncaster v Bradford Swithenbank; Trojans v Exmouth. Second division: Olton v Great Harwood; St Albans v Pickwick, Sherwood v Loughborough; Sunderland Bedans v Woking.

MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Belper v Wolverhampton; Kettering v Hampton; Peverll v Aldridge; Tamworth v Crimson Ramblers.

NORTH LEAGUE: Chester v Poynton; Crosby v York; Don Valley v Ormskirk Ford; Newcastle v Liverpool.

CLUB MATCHES: Penarth v Newport; St Fagans v Cardiff Athletic; Winchmore Hill v Bexleyheath.

HOME COUNTRIES' TOURNAMENT: Under-18 (Gordonstoun, 10.0); Under-16 (RAF Lossie, 10.0).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: WLAF: Frankfurt Galaxy v London Monarchs; Amsterdam Admirals v Barcelona Dragons.

BASKETBALL: Budweiser Championship play-off: Quarter-final, first leg: Worthing v Thames Valley (8.0).

BOWLS: Manchester Unity national indoor championships (Melton Mowbray). Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championships (Cumbernauld).

CYCLING: Essex CRA 10 miles (Great Leighs, 3.0). Wolverhampton Wheelers 10 miles (Albrighton, 2).

LACROSSE: North Of England League: First division: Sale v Stockport.

NETBALL: Inter-County championship (Acklam Sports Centre, Middlesbrough).

ROWING: Scullers Head of the river (Mortlake to Putney, 10.15).

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League (7.30 unless stated): Bradford v Belle Vue; Coventry v Eastbourne; Cradley Heath v Peterborough; King's Lynn v Poole; Swindon v Exeter.

SQUASH: National Championships (Abbeydale Park, Sheffield).

THE [illegible] TIMES
[illegible]

RACING
Commentary
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Results
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FOOTBALL
Reports and scores from the FA Carling Premiership
Call 0839 555 562
Reports and scores from the Endsleigh Insurance League
Call 0839 555 512

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate 49p per min at all other times

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 *unless stated*

FA Challenge Cup
Semi-finals

Man Utd v Crystal Palace
(at Villa Park, 4.0)
Tottenham v Everton
(at Elland Road, 1.30)

FA Carling Premiership

Liverpool v Leeds

KONICA LEAGUE OF WALES: Maesteg Park v Inter Cardiff.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bristol Manor Farm v Liskeard, Crediton v Paulton; Westbury v Saltash.

FA WOMEN'S CUP: Semi-finals: Villa Aztecs v Ipswich Town; Wimbledon v Oxford United

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Leasowe Pacific v Ilkeston, Doncaster Belles v Wembley; Liverpool FC Ladies v Red Star Southampton. Northern division: Langford v St Helens Garswood.

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER CHAMPIONSHIP PLAY-OFFS: Quarter-final, first leg: Doncaster v Manchester (5.30), Leopards v London (5.0). Second leg: Sheffield v Birmingham (6.15)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Stones Bitter Championship

Castleford v Doncaster (3.30)
Halifax v Featherstone
Salford v Workington
Sheffield v Oldham (3.15)
Wakefield v Widnes (3.30)
Wigan v Bradford (7.00)

Second division

Bramley v Barrow
Carlisle v Leigh
Highfield v Hunslet
Hull K R v Batley (3.15)
Keighley v Swinton (3.15)
London Broncos v Huddersfield
Rochdale v Ryedale York
Whitehaven v Dewsbury

HOCKEY

HA CUP: Semi-finals: Formby v Teddington (Formby Cricket Club, 2.30); Guildford v Isca (Kings Manor School, 12.0)

AEWH Cup: Quarter-finals: Ealing v Exmouth; Harleston Magpies v Trojans; Balsam v Winchester; Hightown v Chelmsford. Plate: Quarter-finals: Pressed Steel Fisher v Kettering, Camberley v Crimson Ramblers, Chester v West Bromwich; Crosby v Liverpool.

HOME COUNTRIES' TOURNAMENT: Under-18 and Under-16 (Gordonstoun, 9.0)

WEST LEAGUE: Clifton II v Exeter; Gloucester v Plymouth; Cheltenham v Weston; Colwall v Wimborne; St Austell v Lansdowne; Yate v Redland; Leominster v East Glos.

ENGLISH VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP: South (at Woking).

OTHER SPORT

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: WLAF: Scottish Claymores v Rhein Fire.

BOWLS: Manchester Unity national indoor championships (Melton Mowbray). Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championships (Cumbernauld).

CYCLING: Archer RC 106 miles pro-am grand prix (Hazlemere 11.0).

LACROSSE: Daily Telegraph Senior Flags: Final: Cheadle v Mellor.

NETBALL: Inter-County championship (Acklam Sports Centre, Middlesbrough)

SNOOKER: British Open (Plymouth).

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Cradley Heath (3.30). Glasgow v Long Eaton (6.30); Ipswich v Sheffield (2.30)

SQUASH: National Championships (Abbeydale Park, Sheffield).

هكذا من الاصل

Graceful Amateur champion who is exciting professional admiration

Woods letting his golf speak for him

DAVID MILLER

at Augusta

Eldrick "Tiger" Woods, the 1994 US Amateur champion, controversially this week referred to the Masters as just another tournament. Yesterday he launched himself into the second round as though it was the last day of his life.

At the 400-yard first hole his drive flew to 320 yards, almost onto the pedestrian walkway across the fairway close to the green. *Such is his prodigious length, they will be having to review the spectator arrangements at the majors.*

His second dropped ten feet past the pin, rolled back 30 feet to the fringe of the green and he then read the borrow wrongly, so that his first putt rolled six feet wide. *Studiously* he two-putted for par.

His concentration, if not his touch, around the greens, is impenetrable. Already mature beyond his 19 years, here is a boy not only as phenomenal, say some, as Jack Nicklaus a *quarter of a century ago but one whose circumstances, outside his control, might* consume him before he has a chance to consume the US Tour.

Deep down, you suspect, Woods is disturbed by the public perception of him as a role model for black people. He wants *to be no more than a role model for his golf, for in* fact he is one-eighth Chinese and Thai on his mother's side with also leavenings of American Indian in his half-African heritage. There is a detectable undercurrent of irritation as he attempts to deflect the *cascade of questions from the media about who and what he* is, will be. I am me, you can hear him trying to say.

And what he is truly, is exceptional. He outdrove his partner Curtis Strange, the Masters champion of 1985 and US Open champion in consecutive years in *1988* and *1989* by some 60 yards down the slope to the par-five 2nd, then hit a massive seven-iron to the fringe of the green, putted to five feet and sank his second to go one under.

Desperately resisting the hyperbole before the tournament began, he insisted that here was a course that profited the good driver, that it was a "second-shot course". He would be playing one shot at a *time, he said wisely, as the media tried to* wind him up.

He needs no winding on the course. At the par four 3rd his drive hit a tree and stopped dead. He took out a four-iron and hit his ball 210 yards to within 20 feet, and the applause as he arrived at the green was as much appreciation of the shot as of a young man for the future.

The power off the tee, from what I have briefly seen, comes from the acceleration of his hips during the down swing, so that he has a synchronised timing from feet to shoulder that engages almost every muscle in his frame. *He is as lissom as a high jumper, as slim as a Kenyan runner,* as fast as a Thai boxer. This is not just a golfer but a genuine asset.

A cleverly controlled downhill putt on the nightmare 4th green, which is playing like a skating rink, gave him a *simple second putt* and at the difficult fifth, a birdie put him two under.

When he seemed casual in his comments on the prestige of the Masters, I am unconvinced that this was the arrogance of a young man already *conscious of his own fame but* determined to keep matters in perspective.

Asked whether he had reacted to the appearance Nicklaus's name on the leader board, he replied simply: "Not at all".

He is obliged to treat the extraordinary as ordinary if he is to keep his life under control: public reaction will, for sure, catch fire once he starts to make an impact within the senior ranks.

José María Olazábal had said after their *first round* together that he need binoculars to follow his colleague's ball. But Woods says doggedly about the life that lies ahead, and how he will keep his career in balance: "It is simple. *Golf has never been a priority and never will be. My family comes first, my education* [at Stanford University, California] comes second, and then golf."

The athletic quality of Woods' swing is exciting every commentator and pundit in the game. "He has the fastest motion and acceleration *through his legs and hips that* I have seen," Robert McDonald, publisher of *Classics of Golf* said.

There are a few players, such as Fred Couples, who are singularly relaxed and muscular, but Woods is something different.

John Hopkins 44
Photograph 44

ROBERT SULLIVAN

Woods impressed spectators at Augusta with his tremendous length off the tee

£25m would sweeten bitter pill of club mergers

By Christopher Irvine

EIGHT months after the last proposed *overhaul* was fudged, the biggest upheaval to British rugby league in its 100 years may still be self-imposed — before it is forced upon a game now being swept along by events in Australia.

Whereas far-reaching ideas in the *Framing the Future* document were lost amid clubs' self-interest and political expediency by the Rugby Football League (RFL), there is room for neither today when the club chairmen meet at Wigan. Grandiose schemes were also debated at Central Park *last August but this time they* are very real.

A summer season from March to October and a 12-team Anglo-French super league from 1997 — as part of a joint Australasian venture for global television consumption — seem to be coming whether clubs like it or not. The sum of £25 million or more to get *the scheme off the ground will prove* a giant carrot.

Revolution, however, will necessitate the merger of clubs, a bitter pill the game has steadfastly refused to swallow. *Make-up of the proposed new league is in a state of flux. Provisionally included are* teams in London, Cardiff, Paris and Toulouse.

As entrenched as several clubs, including Leeds and St Helens, are in opposing a switch to summer play, the argument has suddenly become more fundamental. Either the British game *accepts the wind of change or gets split as has happened in Australia* with the breakaway Star League.

Peter Marsland, a director at Halifax, remains cautious, but said: "The game is like an ill patient, not getting any better. *It is bordering on bankruptcy and crowds are dwindling.* The product has never been better, but off the field things have never been worse."

There may be a vote to approve the super league at this morning's emergency gathering; if not, probably next week. A two-thirds majority is required, *with the 16 first-division clubs holding the largest number of votes.* The hardest task for Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the RFL, is to convince the smaller clubs.

Wigan, on the brink of a sixth *successive Stones Bitter Championship title* are, not surprisingly, leading the chorus of approval for the initiative by The News Corporation, parent company of *The Times*.

☐ Bruce Maguire, the Australian forward, lost an appeal yesterday against a two-match ban for punching and *missed Warrington's home match last night* with Leeds. The RFL imposed fines and three-match suspensions for foul play on two Featherstone Rovers players, Steve Molloy and Joe Naidole.

O'Sullivan equal to demands of pressure situation

By Phil Yates

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, a master of brinkmanship in this tournament, reached the semi-finals of the Castella British Open snooker tournament in Plymouth yesterday with a tense 5-4 victory over Dave Harold.

O'Sullivan, the title-holder, held his nerve to compile a colour clearance *to win the* deciding frame on the black, offering further evidence that he has the temperament to be consistently successfu.

Harold, potted off the table *when beaten 5-1 by O'Sullivan at the corresponding stage of* the European Open four months ago, made a 79 break in the second frame to establish a 2-0 lead before his opponent responded in the most emphatic manner.

A 142 *total* clearance earned O'Sullivan *the third frame* and he subsequently added breaks of 61 and 62 to take a 3-2 lead . But Harold, who Harold, has improved from 19th to 11th in the provisional world rankings, levelled at 3-3 before regaining the advantage by *winning a scrappy* seventh frame on the black after potting a difficult long pink to a baulk pocket.

O'Sullivan, who had trailed Dennis Taylor 4-3 before prevailing 5-4, ensured that the match went the distance with an 82 break in the eighth *frame. The deciding frame, as taut as it was disjointed,* seemed to be getting away from him until he potted a long yellow, a difficult brown using the rest and played an inch-perfect positional shot from pink to black to ensure *his survival.*

O'Sullivan, who will now play James Wattana in today's semi-final, said: "Obviously I am delighted with the way I stood up to the pressure of that situation. To knock in balls like that when you are under the cosh is always very *satisfying.*"

Wattana eased through with a 5-1 victory over Mick Price, the little-known Nuneaton professional who was responsible for the elimation of Jimmy White on Thursday.

Wattana, who next week *will begin his attempt to become the first overseas* player to capture the world championship since Cliff Thorburn in 1980, included a break of 113 in a solid display.

IN BRIEF

Pakistan crush India in Sharjah

PAKISTAN, depleted by injuries, premature retirements and the omission of players at the centre of match-fixing allegations, produced a performance of fierce character to beat India by 97 runs in their opening match of the Asia Cup cricket tournament in Sharjah yesterday (Simon Wilde writes).

Inzamam-ul-Haq, the top scorer with 88 from 100 balls, and Wasim Akram put on 91 for the sixth wicket in 12 overs to lift Pakistan to 266 for 9, and Aqib Javed took five for 19 as India slumped to 169 all out.

Lindores wins

Bowls: Joyce Lindores, of Tweedbank, gave Scotland their fourth successive win in the Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championship in *Cumbernauld yesterday when she hit back to* beat Margaret Johnston, the world and Commonwealth outdoor champion, in five sets, 7-0, 3-7, 2-7, 7-3, 7-3.

Tough lesson

Squash: *Jenny Tranfield, 20,* found Suzanne Horner, the defending champion, in irresistible form as she won only four of the first five points in going down 9-4, 9-0, 9-0 in the second round of the national championships on her home court at Abbeydale *Park, Sheffield yesterday.*

Bates through

Tennis: Jeremy Bates, of Great Britain, the No 2 seed, reached the semi-finals of the South African Open in *Johannesburg yesterday by beating* Neville Godwin, of South Africa, 6-3, 6-2.

Close sailing

Yachting: Christophe Auguin, of France, and Steve Pettengill, of the United States, *are separated by just 15 miles* after five days of the final stage of the BOC Challenge solo round-the-world race.

Schoolboy lead

Hockey: Mark Handley, 15, a *Bootle schoolboy, will lead Formby's attack tomorrow in* the Hockey Association Cup semi-final against Teddington, the holders and national league champions.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Phoenix 127 Washington 123; Seattle 108 *Denver 100, Houston 110 Golden State* 102; San Antonio 96 Sacramento 94.

BOWLS

MELTON MOWBRAY: English Indoor Bowling Association national championships: Pairs: Semi-finals: Cumbria bt Wymondham Dell 22-17; Tilbury bt Exonia 29-17. Triples: Final: Wey Valley (P Varnvecopoulos) bt Stanley (J Leeman) 17-14. Singles: First round: A Croft (Hull) bt R Morgan (East Dorset) 21-8; J Leeman (Stanley) bt T Mould (Picketts Lock) 21-4; G Harlow (City of Ely) bt P Bucher (Cyphers) 21-13. *P Broderick (Wellingborough)* bt W Jackson (Dunholme) 21-11; B Long *(Desborough; Maidenhead)* bt S Lane (Bodmin) 21-16; M Ward (Newark) bt H Ashcroft *(Great Aycliffe)* 21-15; I Bond (Exonia) bt R Hart (Essex County) 21-16; J Bell (Cumbria) bt R Perry (Park Hall) 21-18.

CUMBERNAULD: Churchill Insurance women's world indoor championships: Section A: J Woodley (Scot) bt M Castle (NZ) 7-4, 0-7, 7-4; A Simon (Guer) bt M Tosh (Ire) 7-3, 7-5. Section winner: Simon. Runner-up: Castle. Section B: M Johnston (Ire) bt *M Fettes (Can)* 7-2, 7-6; P Smythe (Ire) bt C Le Poidevin (Guer) 7-3, 7-4. Section winner: Johnston. Runner-up: Smyth. Section C: J Lindores (Scot) bt B Brown (Eng) 7-3, 7-4; J Davies (Wales) bt S Noel (Jer) 7-3, 7-3. Section winner: Lindores. Runner-up: Davies. Section D: M Price (Eng) bt M Monkton (Eng) 3-7, 7-4, 7-1; V Stead (Jer) bt D Rowlands (Wales) 7-3, 7-5. Section winner: Price. Runner-up: Stead. *Quarter-finals:* Johnston bt M Castle 7-1, 3-7, 7-2, 7-2; Simon bt Smythe 7-3, 5-7, 7-4, 7-9; Lindores bt Stead 7-6, 0-7, 7-0, 7-9; Davies bt Price 7-6, 7-5, 0-7, 4-7, 7-4. Semi-finals: Johnston bt Simon 7-6, 6-7, 7-1, 7-1; Lindores bt Davies 0-7, 7-6, 7-1, 7-5.

BOXING

ALASSIO, Italy: European super-bantamweight championship (vacant): Vincenzo Belcastro (It) bt Sergei Devakov (Ukr) pts

FOOTBALL

Thursday's late results

EUROPEAN CUP WINNERS' CUP: Semi-finals: First leg: Arsenal 3 Sampdoria 2; Rewal Zaragoza 3 Chelsea 0.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Hendon 1 St Albans 1. First division *Heybridge Swifts 5 Abingdon Town 0.* Third division: Epsom and Ewell 1 Horsham 2; Kingsbury Town 6 Flackwell Heath 0.

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Blackburn 3 Leeds 2; Stoke 0 *Wolverhampton 1; Tranmere 4 Liverpool 2;* Everton 0 Bolton 2. Second division: *Barnsley* 1 Newcastle 2; Bradford 0 Mansfield 1; Oldham 3 Grimsby 2; Burnley 0 Sheffield Wednesday 4

KENTISH CUP: Combined Services 2 Belgian Armed Forces 0.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Southern Division: Fisher '93 1 Waterlooville 1.

CARLING NORTH WEST COUNTIES: *First division:* Penrith 0 Bootle 2.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: *West Midlands Police* 1 Boldmere Swifts 1.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Histon 0 Halstead 6.

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Totton 2 Gosport 1

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Langney Sports 2 Burgess Hill 0; Portfield 0 Peacehaven/Telscombe 6.

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Ramsgate 1 Furness 2.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier Division: Langford 0 Wingate and *Finchley 1; Shillington 0 Arlesey Town 0*

CRICKET

Asia Cup

Pakistan v India

SHARJAH (One-day match: Pakistan won toss): Pakistan beat India by 97 runs.

PAKISTAN

Aamir Sohail c Tendulkar b Srinath	40
Saeed Anwar c Azharuddin b Kumble	25
Ghulam Ali c Tendulkar b Chatterjee	13
Inzamam-ul-Haq b Prasad	88
Asif Mujtaba run out	4
*†Moin Khan b Chatterjee	2
Wasim Akram run out	50
Zafar Iqbal b Kumble	18
Naeem Ashraf not out	8
Nadeem Khan run out	2
Extras (lb 8, w 7, nb 1)	16
Total (9 wkts)	266

Aqib Javed did not bat

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-58, 2-73, 3-104, 4-122, 5-133, 6-214, 7-255, 8-255, 9-266.

BOWLING: Prabhakar 10-0-64-0; Srinath 9-*0-60-1; Prasad 8-0-43-1; Kumble 8-0-29-2.* Tendulkar 7-0-27-0; Chatterjee 8-0-35-2.

INDIA

M Prabhakar c Moin b Aqib	0
S R Tendulkar c Moin b Aqib	4
N S Sidhu lbw b Zafar	54
*M Azharuddin c Mujtaba b Aqib	11
V G Kambli b Aqib	0
S V Manjrekar c Mujtaba b Aamir	50
†N R Mongia hit wicket b Wasim	18
J Srinath c and b Aqib	0
A Kumble run out	0
U Chatterjee not out	3
V Prasad c Moin b Aamir	3
Extras (lb 8, w 7, nb 11)	26
Total (42.4 overs)	169

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-2, 2-11, 3-37, 4-37, 5-105, 6-144, 7-151, 8-151, 9-152

BOWLING: Wasim Akram 8-0-23-1; Aqib *Javed 9-1-19-5; Zafar Iqbal 8-0-34-1.* Naeem Ashraf 6-0-40-0; Nadeem Khan 10-0-42-0; Aamir Sohail 1.4-0-3-2.

Umpires: C Mitchley (SA) and I Robinson (Zim)

GOLF

HALFORD HEWITT PUBLIC SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT: First round: At Deal: Cranleigh bt Merchant Taylors 4-1, Charterhouse bt Epsom 3-2; Shrewsbury bt Merchiston 3-2; Sherborne bt Rugby 3-2; *Ampleforth* bt City *of* London 3-2; Stonyhurst bt Forest 4-1; Wellington bt Uppingham 3½-1½; *Harrow bt Eton* 3½-1½; Cheltenham bt Felsted 3-2, Rossall bt Canford 4-1, Berkhamsted bt Framlingham 4-1; Tonbridge bt Blundells 4-1, Radley bt Marlborough 4-1, Lancing bt Bedford 3-2. *At Sandwich:* Haileybury b Mill Hill 4-1, Whitgift bt St Paul's 3-2, Watson's bt Loretto *4½-½, Edinburgh Academy* bt King's Canterbury 3½-1½, Taunton bt Eastbourne 3-2, Fettes bt Westminster 4-1; Gresham's bt Bishop's Stortford 4-1, Repton bt Glenalmond 3½-1½, Highgate bt King *Edward's* 3-2; Bradfield bt Aldenham 5-0, Stowe beat Malvern 3½-1½. The Leys bt Wellingborough 3-2

ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST GC: English senior women's championship: Semi-finals: *A Thompson (Seaford)* bt *A Howard (Whitefield)* 5 and 4, G Palmer (Hollinwell) bt *C Bailey (Tandridge)* 1 up. *Final:* Thompson bt Palmer

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Boston 1 Buffalo 1; Philadelphia 5 Tampa Bay 4, Quebec 3 Montreal 2, Los Angeles 3 Dallas 2

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Division two: *Bramley 28 Leigh 24*

SPEEDWAY

CHALLENGE MATCHES: Middlesbrough 43 Belle Vue 52, Sheffield 53 Hull 43 (Hull win 103-89 on agg)

SNOOKER

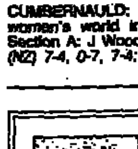
PLYMOUTH: British Open (England unless *stated): Third round: R O'Sullivan* bt D O'Kane (NZ) 5-1, J Wattana (Thai) bt P Ebdon 5-2; Parrott bt Foulds 5-3, S Davis bt M Clark 5-4, J Parrott bt N Foulds 5-3. J Wattana (Thai) bt P Ebdon 5-2. Quarter-final: Wattana bt M Price 5-1.

SQUASH

ABBEYDALE PARK, Sheffield: NSF national championships: Men: First round: S *Meads (Berks)* bt M Greenslade *(Dorset)* 9-2, 9-4, 9-4; P Hargrave (Derbys) bt N Douglas (Notts) 9-6, 9-4, 9-3, C Leach *(Warwicks) bt N Dugan (Bucks)* 9-1, 0-9, 1-9, 9-7, 9-2; S Hardey (Oxon) bt B Hickerman (Derbys) 9-0, 7-9, 9-2, 9-1; M Bertell (Yorks) bt C Tomlinson (Kent) 2-9, 9-2, 9-4, 9-4; D Webb (Essex) bt J Lilley (Yorks) 10-9, 9-4, 9-0, *N Cass (Yorks) bt M* Hornby (Lancs) 9-6, 7-9, 9-4, 9-0; G Thwaite (Cumbria) bt L Scott (Yorks) 9-5, 9-3 9-7 N Taylor (Lancs) bt P Blanksby (Notts) 8-10, 9-4, 9-4, 9-0; P Lord (Cheshire) beat P Spencer (Merseyside) 9-0, 9-1, 9-3, A Toms (Yorks) bt N Matthew (Yorks) 9-1, 9-0, 9-0; D Campion (Yorks) bt J Russell (Kent) 9-4, 9-5, 9-3; *H Stiff (Devon)* bt S Townsend (Warwicks) 9-2, 9-3, 10-8 P Genever (Sussex) bt J Dark (Wales) 9-2, 9-7, 5-9, 3-9, 9-4. *Women: First round:* J Tranfield (Yorks) bt K Martin (Northants) 9-1, 9-1, 9-1 D Leeves (Sussex) bt K Buckley (Essex) 9-4, 3-0, 9-3. P Nicholl (Durham and Cleveland) bt J Gurnett (Essex) 9-1, 9-0, 9-1. A Wray (Yorks) bt L Hill (Derbys) 9-3, 9-5, 7-9, 9-7, *D Vardy (Notts) bt S Taylor (Wales)* 9-1, 9-1, 9-4; T Malik (Wales) b K Atkins (Northants) 9-1, 9-7, 9-1.

TENNIS

AMELIA ISLAND, Florida: Women's tournament (US unless stated): Third round: C Martinez (Sp) bt I Spirlea (Rom) 6-1, 6-1, G Sabatini (Arg) bt B Fulco-Villella (Arg) 6-1, 6-0, M Maleeva (Bul) bt C Rubin (US) 2-6, 6-3, 6-0; A Coetzer (SA) bt V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) 7-5, 7-5, *I Gorrochategui (Arg) bt W* Probst (Ger) 6-2, 7-5. L Courtois (Bel) bt Z Garrison Jackson (US) 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. S Hack (Ger) bt S Ramon (Sp) 6-1, 7-5, K Nowak (Pol) bt M Babel (Ger) 6-2, 6-3



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

This is another hand from the Oxford/Cambridge bridge match.

Dealer East **Love All. IMPS**

North:
♠93
♥A92
♦K752
♣KJ76

West:
♠4
♥Q103
♦QJ843
♣AQ105

East:
♠AQ102
♥J78
♦A1096
♣83

South:
♠KJ8765
♥K854
♦—
♣942

W	N	E	S
—	—	Pass	2♠ (1)
Dble (2)	All Pass		

Contract: Two Spades *Doubled*, by South. Lead: Queen of diamonds

(1) Weak two bid. (2) Take out.

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

In Two Spades Doubled South came to five tricks in spades, two in hearts, and one in clubs. If the defence do not play a forcing game, although the declarer will only make four spade tricks he will be able to come to two club tricks. So what went wrong?

In my view *it was reasonable for East to pass the double of Two Spades.* If his partner were *minimum* he would be unlikely to make a game, and if his partner were maximum he ought to get a good penalty. I think the fault lies with West — when you make a minimum take-out double it is important to have all the basic requirements, in particular four cards in the other major.

Admittedly, *changing* one of his clubs into a heart wouldn't have *made* much difference to *the defence* but, nevertheless, *on* the hand he had, facing a passed partner, he should have passed Two Spades.

After the hand East asked North indignantly whether it was *systemic* for his partner to have a six-card suit for a Weak Two. East clearly thought that was an old-fashioned and long discredited *notion*.

KEENE on CHESS

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Champion dies

Dr Marion Tinsley, for many years world champion in chess's sister game draughts, died on April 3 in Atlanta, Georgia. Born on February 3, 1927, Tinsley was recognised in 1954 as the world draughts champion and he dominated the game *whenever he entered a competition*.

Many would regard as his greatest achievement his match defeat of the computer program Chinook in London 1992 by four wins to two losses, with 33 draws. Chinook was capable of analysing three million moves per minute, so in a mathematically orientated game such as draughts, Tinsley's victory was a colossal feat.

Baker's seven

In the St Peters de Beauvoir tournament, now being held in London, *Chris Baker* has stormed *ahead* of the pack with the *remarkable start of* seven *successive* wins. The *only player close to him is* Neil McDonald, who has six points. The following game sees Baker crushing an international master opponent in short order.

White: Baker

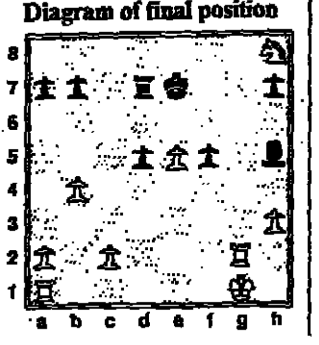
Black: *Summerscale*

St Peters de Beauvoir Tournament, London, April 1995

King's Pawn Opening

	White	Black
1	e4	d6
2	d4	Nf6
3	Nc3	c6
4	Nf3	Bg4
5	h3	Bh5
6	Be2	e6
7	0-0	d5
8	Bg5	Be7
9	exd5	cxd5
10	g4	Bg6
11	Ne5	Nfd7
12	Bxe7	Qxe7
13	f4	Nxe5
14	dxe5	Nc6
15	Rf2	Rd8
16	Qd2	Qc5
17	b4	Qd4
18	Qxd4	Nxd4
19	Nb5	Nxe2+
20	Rxe2	Ke7
21	Nd6	Rd7
22	f5	exf5
23	gxf5	Bh5
24	Rg2	g6
25	Nxf7	gxf5
26	Nxh8	Black resigns

Diagram of final position



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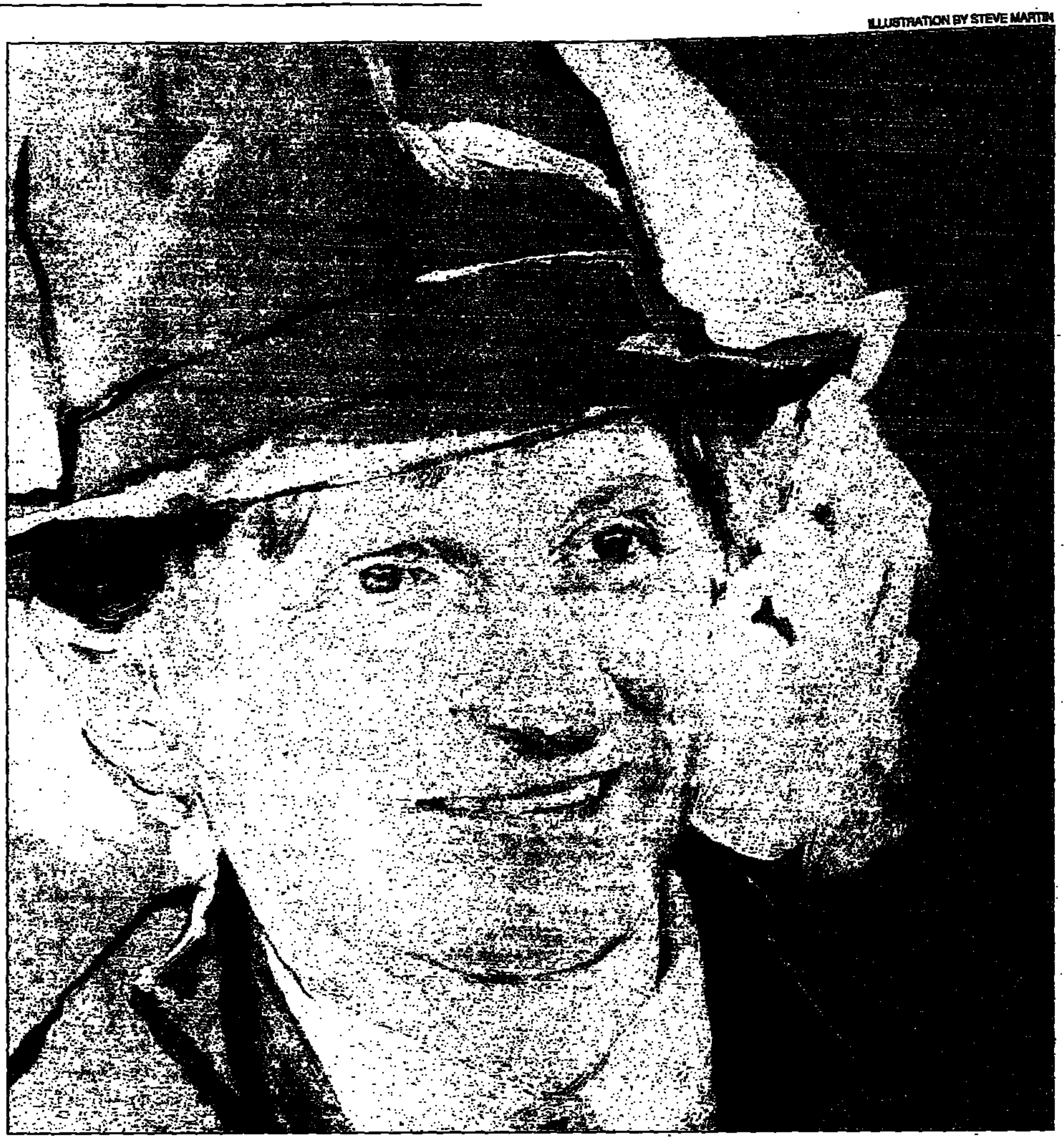
MICHIGAN
HEART OF THE GREAT LAKES

Saturday portrait: Martin Pipe, by Alan Lee

Outsider who earns grudging respect for making the running

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN



Aintree is a stage like no other, on which winners habitually provoke emotion, affection and adulation. But if Martin Pipe and Miinnehoma should today win the Grand National for a second successive year, the usual rules will not apply. Within racing, it will be an unpopular result and this will be no reflection on the horse.

Pipe remains an enigma. The gatecrasher who took over the party still commands suspicion rather than warmth. He has altered the boundaries of training and attracted, for his astounding deeds, only reluctant admiration from his peers. He has not achieved popularity, nor actively sought it, for his ethos has been to defy tradition and to scorn the cliques of his game.

He has marked his own territory and it has been a deliberately solitary plot but there are times, like the present, when he suffers for it.

It would be absurd to claim that Pipe has had a poor season, for he is the only National Hunt trainer to have reached 100 winners. But, by his own standards, it has been disappointing. For the second consecutive year, the trainers' title looks sure to go to David Nicholson and, after 13 seasons of ever-increasing success, this will be the fourth in succession when Pipe's winners have declined.

Off the course, too, these have been disturbed times. Pipe's belief that the media exist only to trip him up has been refuelled. A television dissection of one of his horses considered by the Jockey Club not to have run on its merits so enraged Pipe that he refused for some time to speak to the press. Oddly, another controversial run by that same horse, Encore un Peu, is a factor in the crumbling relationship between Pipe and his stable jockey, Richard Dunwoody.

If Pipe seems happier among horses than people, perhaps it is because he trusts them more. According to his mother, Betty, he has never been at ease in company. "He has always tended to be a loner," she said. "He's never liked crowds." And here is the paradox. By striving for the mould-breaking peaks of his career, Pipe has inevitably attracted crowds and curiosity but such attention has flustered rather than flattered him. There are few things he dislikes more than inquisitive people. He is a star in a field of public entertainment and yet, by choice, he would operate in private.

Talk of doubt and decline seem inappropriate for a man today defending his hold on the greatest race in the world and celebrating a variety of anniversaries. Next month, Pipe will be 50. It will also be 20 years since he trained his first winner, Hit Parade, and ten years since he began to train his string exclusively on a four-furlong woodchip gallop up the side of a hill on the converted pig farm that is his headquarters in Nicholashayne, Somerset.

'He won't do things a certain way just because people have done so for generations'

That gallop, along with many other aids at his disposal, is a product of the wisdom and wealth of Pipe's father, Dave. A visitor to Nicholashayne could be forgiven for believing the avuncular figure in unprepossessing clothes is the odd-job man as he busies himself about the yard. But Dave Pipe is the power behind the business.

A workaholic like his son, it is a proud boast of Pipe Sr that he has never taken a holiday and does not possess a passport. His fortune was amassed by building up a chain of 37 betting shops in the West Country and then, in 1972, selling the operating rights to William Hill. More recently, he sold a building site for £9 million.

He has ploughed money and invention into the training grounds, building comfortable staff accommodation from what were once the offices of Taunton council and buying his son a "cheap" helicopter from the local electricity board. But he has never flaunted his wealth. While Martin bustles about with a mobile phone pressed to his ear, Dave, who retains a betting pitch on several courses, prefers to use public callboxes, to save money.

The contrast extends. Dave always considered his son "too brave" in his few years as a bookmaker. He was also either brave or foolish behind a wheel and on horseback — hence, the writing-off of six cars before he had turned 20 and the broken thigh suffered at Taunton when he was put through the wing of a hurdle as he tried an ambitious manoeuvre up the rail. He carries the limp still and his perpetual motion about the stable-yard is conducted aboard a BMX bike.

"I can't keep still for a minute unless it's to study form," he once said. His darting mind does not guarantee an organised lifestyle. This is the domain of Carol, originally office accountant to Dave Pipe and with whom Martin had an 11-year courtship before they married in 1971. Their son, David, will one day take over the training operation. Carol is the calm, practical side of the partnership and, according to Peter Scudamore, even orders her husband's meals when they eat out.

Scudamore fulfilled almost every ambition during his years as stable jockey to Pipe. Theirs was a meeting of like minds, focused, and, each evening, they would spend up to two hours on the phone. Scudamore is resentful of the more outrageous jealousies thrown Pipe's way — the accusations of blood-doping, of stealing owners from fellow trainers and, via the infamous *Cook Report* television show of four years ago, of callously breaking down horses.

The *Cook Report* and its unfair slant had the effect of gathering trainers behind Pipe. But though they lent their support, still they did not appreciate this man of rare obsession, separated from the majority not only by locality but background — he is not one of the social set of trainers — and approach. "He asks questions of tradition," Scudamore explained. "He will not do things a certain way just because people have done so for generations. He wants to qualify everything."

Pipe's background was not horses but bookmaking. At school, he took bets on almost anything and had a "loan book" for monetary advances to other boys. Yet by his own admission he would not have known one end of a horse from another. His accumulated knowledge is self-taught, largely from devouring age-old books on the care of horses.

At home in Somerset, such books have pride of place in his spotless office — he is paranoid about cleanliness, too — which also boasts detailed files on every horse in his care. A man of method and punctuality, his fastidiousness extends to the morning paper and woe betide anyone who marks or creases Pipe's copy of *The Sporting Life*.

His climb to the summit of training was achieved by getting his horses fitter than other trainers, by placing them in suitable races and by knowing, to the hour, when they were primed to run. Some are now shamelessly copying his methods but if imitation is indeed a form of flattery, it is in this case rendered at a distance.

There will be head-shaking acknowledgment of his ability if Miinnehoma wins again today, but no sympathy will be extended if he fails. If the winners continue to decline, however slowly, there will always be those prepared to decry him and if, as expected, Dunwoody moves on next season, it will be seen as an example of Pipe's inability to communicate with people as he so evidently can with horses.

West Indies feel rare pressure

John Woodcock reports from Antigua on the restive mood to be found in the home camp

TO BEAT West Indies by ten wickets and within three days in their own back yard, as Australia did at Bridgetown in the first Test match, is not unlike scoring six goals without reply in the national football stadium in Brazil or taking 50 points off the All Blacks at Eden Park in Auckland. It has left Australia with much to live up to and West Indies with much to live down in the second Test match which starts at the Recreation Ground here in St John's today.

The West Indies board gave precedence to a one-day tournament in New Zealand in the second half of February, so this series was reduced from the usual five Test matches to four, and the Australians are now quietly confident of winning it. So they will, unless West Indies play with a lot more heart and purpose than they did a week ago.

Rather than paralysing the Australians, as it might have done, the loss of McDermott and Fleming in the run-up to the first Test may well have drawn them closer together. In Julian it has provided them with a valuably fresh bowler, and it has taken McGrath out of McDermott's shadow.

Cricket managers talk a lot these days about "game plans". These involve, among other things, working out, to the last detail, how and where to bowl at each opposing batsman, and against West Indies, this means trying their patience. At Bridgetown, McGrath, Reiffel and Julian, who is not normally known for his accuracy, did it splendidly.

The hype which preceded the series revolved mainly around Shane Warne's impending encounter with Brian Lara. In the event, Warne's bowling at Bridgetown was incidental. Although he finished with five wickets, they came, with one exception, from the West Indies lower order. Warne was played with some disdain by Hooper and with reasonable ease by Lara. It is more the pitch and the West Indian mood that are at the centre of speculation about today's match.

It may be assumed that the West Indies will be taking a good deal less for granted this time. At the launching on Thursday of a new sponsorship of the West Indian team by Sandals Resorts, whose hotels aim at fostering romance in the Caribbean, there was much talk of some distinguished reputations being at stake. The Australians will certainly be expecting Ambrose and Walsh to set a very much sharper tone.

Whether the absence of Desmond Haynes contributed towards decidedly indifferent West Indian batting in Bridgetown, it is difficult to say. It could have played a part, though local opinion seems not to think so. Haynes is now taking the West Indies board and its selectors to court for having excluded him from consideration. Before the start of their season the board stipulated that players, other than those on tour with the West Indies team, would be required, unless unfit or unavailable for some other good reason, to play in all five Red Stripe inter-island matches.

Haynes missed the first one through playing for Western Province in the Currie Cup in South Africa. Thereby, you would have thought, ruling himself out of contention. He, however, is pleading restraint of trade. Although he is 39, his skill and experience, are, ironically, just what West Indies could do with at the moment.

On a pitch such as last year's — the one on which Lara went to town and England replied to a West Indian first-innings total of 593 by making 593 themselves — the draw would be a predictable result. A different pitch is being used today, and Andy Roberts, the manager of the West Indies side, whose counsel means much in this his native island, discounts the possibility of another batsman's paradise. One startling Test match could conceivably be followed by another.

WEST INDIES (probable): R B Richardson (captain), S C Williams, B C Lara, C L Hooper, J C Adams, K L T Arthurton, J R Murray, W K M Benjamin, C E L Ambrose, C A Walsh, K C G Benjamin

AUSTRALIA (probable): M A Taylor (captain), M J Slater, M E Waugh, D C Boon, S R Waugh, G S Blewett, I A Healy, B P Julian, P R Reiffel, S K Warne, G D McGrath

McCall setting his sights on Tyson

Srikumar Sen, in Las Vegas, hears how Larry Holmes intends to upset the champion's plans

OLIVER McCALL could not have chosen a trickier easy first defence of his World Boxing Council title. He has picked Larry Holmes because he is an old man of 45 who has sometimes looked less than steady on his feet under pressure. Yet if McCall does not dispose of Holmes early, as he intends to tonight at Caesars Palace, he could be exposed as being little more than Mike Tyson's sparring partner who got lucky with one punch against Lennox Lewis in their title bout last September.

Holmes is the game's most experienced practitioner. Even when losing to Evander Holyfield in 1992, he looked a class above the champion.

"McCall is an average fighter. All he did was throw a right hand and caught Lennox Lewis and a prayer was answered," Holmes's trainer, Saoul Mamby, said. "One punch can make a champion or an ex-champion but it does not necessarily make a good champion. I rate him as a good club fighter."

But lifting the title has enabled McCall to think more positively about himself, instead of looking on himself as Tyson's sparring partner. He has total belief in his abilities even to the extent of thinking he can halt Tyson's comeback.

Having always claimed that he held his own against Tyson in sparring, he thinks he can give Holmes the kind of treatment that Tyson gave the old man in 1988. Tyson knocked out Holmes in four rounds, causing watchers to be seriously concerned about his health. McCall intends to stop Holmes in three rounds.

McCall could well be successful, as Holmes has found himself in trouble against ordinary opponents like Ray Mercer and Jesse Ferguson, whom Frank Bruno knocked out in one round.

McCall has never stopped talking about himself all week. He said: "It's not when I fight Tyson, but when Tyson fights me. I'm the champion."

Holmes is not impressed. "He thinks he's so damned good he can get inside my head with all that talk. I can't even get inside my own head. He's only Mike Tyson's sparring partner, a guy who's had 25 fights, lost five. If he was fighting Joe Blow no one would be here today."

Holmes admits that he looked bad at times against Mercer and Ferguson but he said those performances should be discounted as he had never regarded Mercer and Ferguson highly and had taken them for granted. This time he has studied McCall and prepared for him. Holmes, certainly, looks in better shape than before.

Holmes promised he would show McCall a trick he had learnt in the golden era of heavyweight boxing in the Sixties, in Gleason's gym in New York.

"McCall loops his punches" Holmes said. "So I have a trick for him. You ask Holyfield. He'd tell you for four days he could not close his hands after fighting me.

"Every time he hit me I made sure his hands hurt more. That's what I'm going to do to this guy. Like Holyfield, McCall is going to run into my arms and elbows and he'll find his forearm hurts so much he can't ball his fists no more.

"McCall is a very intelligent man. He went to school but he thinks dumb when it comes to fighting. When you think dumb, that's when you get into trouble."

Holmes could be right. If the bout goes into the later rounds McCall could get frustrated and lose sight of his boxing and revert to brawling, playing into Holmes's hands. But it is unlikely that Holmes will get the verdict as he usually concentrates too much on defensive tricks and never looks like he's quite doing enough.

Fairbrother focuses on challenge from Peel

By John Goodbody

THE largest field in the 30-year history of the British Open judo championships assembles in Birmingham today, with 450 fighters from 24 countries due to compete. This is scarcely surprising. Next month the city stages the annual European championships, the biggest judo event to be held in Britain for 21 years.

As a result, all the Britons who have performed consistently well in recent years, including the four medal-winners from the 1992 Olympic Games, will be taking part. It is a final opportunity for Neil Adams, the team manager, to assess their fitness and precision of technique before selecting the squad for the European championships.

Nicola Fairbrother, the world lightweight title-holder, was not at her most focused in the Tournoi de Paris in February but she invariably rouses herself for the international championships.

"I am getting the same old attitude back, of going out to win rather than just trying to go out and look like a world champion," she said. Fairbrother will still need to be careful against Nicole Flagothier, of Belgium, whom she beat in the 1992 European final, and Cheryl Peel, her heir-apparent in Britain.

Another Olympic medal-winner, Sharon Rendle, of Grimsby, must expect an intense struggle in the featherweights. She came third in the Tournoi de Paris when her British rival, Debbie Allan, failed to get a place. However, Allan subsequently threw Rendle in the German Open and, as a bronze medal-winner at the 1994 European championships, she is marginally the favourite.

Kate Howey, the Olympic bronze medal-winner and runner-up in the 1993 world championships, has the pedigree to retain the light-heavyweight crown.

Ray Stevens, the men's light-heavyweight silver medal-winner in Barcelona, finished second in the Czech Open last month and, as title-holder, is favourite in Birmingham today.

Taking extreme measures in effort to save the earth

SIMON BARNES

On Saturday

NO, the Olympic Games will not, after all, be the No 1 sporting event of 1996. This honour goes to the Extreme Games, which will be held on Rhode Island, in the United States, in June of next year. Events include bungee jumping, forwards, backwards and freestyle. Watersports include barefoot jumping and kite skiing. We have dreary stuff like mountain biking and skateboarding, but if you can live through this, we have in-line skating, with subdivisions of street course, half-pipe, downhill and highest air trick. But easily my favourite is an event called street luge racing — I hope they won't take the heat off the event by stopping the traffic first. Subdivisions here are individual, dual and "mass luge". There is also an item of mystery called "eco-challenge team competition". First team to save the earth wins, no doubt. The Extreme Games last for a week, are made for television and put together for the American cable channel, ESPN. More than 500 athletes are expected; there will be medals and more than $300,000 in prize-money. The games will then take place every two years, if anyone survives.

EXTREME GAMES
You won!
No... I went through a hedge
GEO

Losing ground

The Maracanã, perhaps the greatest footballing shrine of them all, is likely to be turned into a supermarket. The stadium in Rio, where in 1950 200,000 people saw Brazil lose to Uruguay in the decisive game of the World Cup, has long been in a poor state. Sentiment begone!

Striking out

The goalkeeper of the week award results in a spectacular tie. Jorge Campos, Mexico goalkeeper, Acapulco surfer and silly shirt specialist, has finally achieved his ambition and played as centre forward for his country. The Mexico coach, Miguel Mejia Baron, switched Campos from goal to attack in the recent match against Chile with the score 1-1. Hugo Sánchez, the great Mexican player, was not in the squad. He said the decision showed "a lack of respect" towards real strikers. Alas, Campos did not score. Chile won 2-1 with a penalty. Would Campos have saved it, I wonder.

Bum rap

Jonathan Smith, goalkeeper for Darwen FC, ties with Campos for football's most coveted accolade. The craze for goalscorer's celebrations is to rip off your shirt. Smith scored for Darwen against mighty Eastwood Hanley and celebrated as only a goalkeeper could. He ripped off his shorts. Though respectably clad beneath, he was booked for ungentlemanly conduct and later fined £6. "I couldn't believe it," Smith said afterwards, adding: "When the referee booked me, I looked over to the bench and the manager had his head in his hands."

Ripping yarn

As every American footballer knows, the helmet is not a shield but a weapon. Example: the dip'n'rip tackle. In this ancient traditional move, you go for your opponent chest high and then raise your head ferociously, smashing your opponent in the chin as you do so. Clearly, timing is everything in this delicate manoeuvre. But the National Football League has stepped in and banned the dip'n'rip. It is now considered unnecessary toughness. If you use the helmet's crown, face mask or hairline against an opponent, you now concede a 15-yard penalty. The game must be getting soft.

Lager mentality

Killer stat of the week: 75 per cent of lager-drinking men are keen football supporters. This important announcement comes out as football, ever keen to eliminate its problems with drunken violence, takes on Carlsberg as a leading sponsor.

Catholic taste

Romario, the troubled Brazilian striker, has at last found peace. He did so in the midst of his troubles on his return to Brazil by joining an obscure and messianic religious sect called the Caetana Ministry. "It has lifted an insupportable weight from my back," he said. "I feel a new man." He added, bewilderingly: "I am still a Catholic, because there is only one God."

Wisden winners

And now the moment everybody has been waiting for: the results of this column's *Wisden* competition. The challenge was to select the five *Wisden* cricketers of the year, and competitors were given a flying start with the feats of a certain West Indian. The *Wisden* editor's selections reward achievements during the English season of the previous year. Here are those *Wisden* cricketers in full: Brian Lara, Kepler Wessels, Steve Rhodes, Tim Munton and Devon Malcolm. For the second year, nobody got all five. The winners are E. E. Drake, Peter Matthews, David Main, A. Fradgley and John Baker. A copy of *Wiz 95* will be winging its way to these percipient people. Meanwhile, thanks to everyone who entered and a private cheer from this column for Devon Malcolm.

Semi-finals offer contrast between cultured and muscular approaches

Tottenham prepared for battle Royle

By Peter Ball

IN MOST people's eyes, an FA Cup Final on May 20 between Manchester United and Tottenham Hotspur, the two best footballing sides in the country, would be a dream come true. Tomorrow afternoon Everton and Crystal Palace will test whether the favourites have the resilience to make those dreams reality.

"It might be a lot of other people's dream, but it's not my dream," Joe Royle, the manager of Everton, Tottenham's opponents at Elland Road, said yesterday. Anyway, semi-finals have more to do with nerve than dreams. "Semi-finals traditionally aren't great games," Royle added. "They are hard fought, frantic, and if anyone can get hold of the ball in those circumstances they will probably be on a winner."

Tottenham will be well advised to take Royle's warning seriously, as their former captain Steve Perryman discovered when he made his first appearance in a semi-final, against Wolverhampton Wanderers in 1981. "A minute into the game I felt tired, and it never left me," Perryman recalled. "I struggled to do things for the whole game. It was what nervous tension does to you when the prize is so close. It also tempts you to take the easy way out and look for the safe ball throughout the game."

With Klinsmann and Sheringham, Anderton, if he is fit, and Barmby, Tottenham's advantage in class is obvious, and the experience of Klinsmann and Mabbutt should help them avoid those traps. They will need to. Everton's record against the top sides has been excellent recently, and since Royle took over as manager in October they have made battling their forte.

"We've been playing cup-tie football since day one," Royle conceded. By contrast, Tottenham reached the semi-final by imposing their own sophisticated football on Liverpool at Anfield. The Elland Road pitch has been lifeless this season, however, which will not help Tottenham, who are awaiting fitness tests on Anderton, Howells and Campbell. With Kerslake out and Edinburgh suspended, Campbell's loss would be damaging, but Everton have worries at centre back, where they hope that Watson recovers from flu, and in attack.

Paul Rideout came through a reserve game on Thursday but, with Duncan Ferguson suspended and Barlow almost certain to miss the game through injury, Royle must decide whether to play five in midfield or give Amokachi another run. The absences weaken Everton's cause, but Royle warned: "The team that goes out in blue will be more than strong enough, believe me. If Tottenham's name is on the cup, then so be it, but we don't believe it is."

The other semi-final, at Villa Park, also pits a footballing team against a fiercely competitive one, although Manchester United have not been found wanting when it comes to a battle in recent years. The game recalls the bitter Cup final replay in 1990, and the recent unhappy game at Selhurst Park, when Cantona and Cole were targets for some unceremonious treatment.

Cole, who is cup-tied, and Cantona, whose response began the train of events that led to his suspension and court appearance, are both missing this time. Bruce, too, is suspended, but Sharpe returns and Kanchelskis trained yesterday, leaving Alex Ferguson, the manager, with a strong hand. With the admirable David Elleray as referee, Palace would be ill-advised to try an overly muscular approach tomorrow.

United look to have too much power as they pursue Ferguson's target of a trophy a year, and they have not lost a post-war semi-final at Villa Park. But their form has not been impressive of late and, like last year in the semi-final against Oldham, they may need Mark Hughes to rise to the occasion.

If he does not, Palace could surprise them, as they did Liverpool at this stage in 1990. "The idea of the beautiful game and the beautiful final might be some way away," Royle warned.

PROBABLE TEAMS

At Elland Road

EVERTON: N Southall, D Jackson, D Watson, D Unsworth, G Ablett, A Limpar, J Parkinson, B Horne, A Hinchcliffe, G Stuart, P Rideout. Subs: D Amokachi, A Grant, J Kearton.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): I Walker, E Thorstvedt, D Austin, C Calderwood, G Mabbutt, J Dundy, S Nethercott, S Campbell, R Rosenthal, G Popescu, D Howells, A Turner, D Anderton, N Barmby, J Klinsmann, E Sheringham, D Caskey.

At Villa Park

CRYSTAL PALACE: N Martyn, D Patterson, R Shaw, E Young (or D Gordon), C Coleman, R Houghton, G Southgate, D Pitcher, J Salako, I Dowie, C Armstrong. Subs: R Wilmot, B Dyer, I Cox.

MANCHESTER UNITED (from): P Schmeichel, G Walsh, G Neville, R Keane, G Pallister, D Irwin, D Beckham, P Ince, L Sharpe, A Kanchelskis, B McClair, M Hughes, R Giggs, P Scholes, N Butt.

Conjurors cast off shackles to leave Cup overflowing

ROB HUGHES

Weekend View

The sporting world opens up this weekend like an exotic flower coming into bloom. The contrasts are everywhere: golf in Augusta, motor racing in Buenos Aires, over the sticks at Aintree, and the FA Cup semi-finals at Villa Park and Elland Road.

Why do I place football last of the four? An error, for the FA Cup, the oldest team tournament of them all, can still offer romance at least comparable to any of them.

Indeed, there is an element of human nature which we hope to see tomorrow that none of the other sports offers in quite the same way. It is spontaneity, the manner in which Steve McManaman, of Liverpool, won the Coca-Cola Cup at Wembley last Sunday as an individual liberating and expressing himself within the team format.

In the Argentine Grand Prix, man and machine, that cavalier spirit would be as deadly as it is outmoded. In Juan Fangio's time, perhaps, but today the driver is part of a programmed machine, the best car usually wins, backed by the best team in the sense that all is controlled from the pits.

Similarly, no jockey will win the Grand National without being on the best animal, without forging a partnership of two, three if you count the trainer, that again requires a rehearsed approach. And golf? Surely that is one man against nature and the lie of the land? Yes, but discipline in golf is all, any competitor who takes too many chances will not be on the leaderboard.

So it was for some decades in the Cup. "Football is a noble game," Alfredo di Stefano, the Argentinian who played for Real Madrid, once said. "It is spoilt because players have to bow to the knee of coaches instead of expressing themselves."

Perhaps no longer. We are coming out of the over-regimented era, and Liverpool's leadership, their example at Wembley against Bolton Wanderers, clearly showed that others in the team were prepared to fetch and carry to allow McManaman, not once but twice, to conjure up goals that made him the man of the moment.

So who will do anything like that tomorrow? For Tottenham Hotspur, whom many believe were a team drawn to the FA Cup from the moment their chairman, Alan Sugar, used his lawyers to defeat the intention of the FA to banish them, match-winners abound. Jürgen Klinsmann is a popular and a likely choice. The German who has put a smile on the season, the German who might well follow Eric Cantona as player of the season, the German with a dream to win England's most coveted trophy.

He, like many millions in 60 or more countries who will view the semi-finals via television, fell for the lure of England's traditions from a distance. Now there are grown men who, whatever the temperature, will put on their replica Klinsmann shirts and make for Elland Road.

Of course, it could just as likely be Ronnie Rosenthal. The Israeli did it once, for his flamboyant hat-trick at Southampton, at least two of the goals being instinctive affairs, was on that night the sole reason that Tottenham were still in the Cup.

Or maybe, given Tottenham's nature, the inspiring individual could be Barmby, Anderton, Popescu or even, for heaven's sake, a young colossus of a lad, Sol Campbell, should Anderton and Campbell pass fitness tests.

Everton, it is said, are grinding through on pragmatism. Maybe so, but I have a gut feeling that Everton might be the team to get to Wembley, and who better, who more romantic to come on and score the winner, even if he does not start, than Daniel Amokachi?

How maddening his season has been, bought for £3 million after a thrilling World Cup with Nigeria, put into the team by a manager, Mike Walker, who did not know his true position, and now mistrusted by Walker's replacement, Joe Royle.

Amokachi is in the squad because Duncan Ferguson lacked discipline of another kind. Amokachi still believes in himself, still follows the dream, and if and when he gets on is still compelled to go where intuition leads him.

The other game at Villa Park is more cut and dried. Manchester United are top-heavy with potential match-winners. Ryan Giggs can evoke the same memories, the same winger's craft, as McManaman. Mark Hughes can explode shots from "impossible" angles. Even Roy Keane, wearing the shackles tomorrow of a stopgap centre back, can recapture from his Nottingham Forest past one of those memorable shots from 20 or 30 yards, a goal to strike fear and awe into anyone.

Crystal Palace? If a hero lurks there, why should it not be John Salako, a player whose creativity transcends his team, and one whose physical courage has overcome the potential ruin of a knee injury that needed operation after operation merely to enable him to stand.

One questions only whether the lords of the game deserve what is coming. The Football Association once more has talked this week with forked tongue. How could the governing body announce, on the same day, a £1 million campaign to take care of the children, to deter them from the evil of "recreational drugs", and also endorse Carlsberg as "the official beer of the FA", expanding its influence to all levels of the game. The money from drink may well be fuelling the campaign against drugs, but what are the messages to the coming generation?

JOSH LEVY

Rosenthal, whose hat-trick at Southampton inspired Tottenham's FA Cup progress

Loyal Howells happy to play the foot-soldier

Russell Kempson meets a midfield player who is thriving under new management

When Tottenham Hotspur defeated Blackburn Rovers 3-1 at White Hart Lane two months ago, it was widely accepted as one of the most complete performances of the season. Tottenham, revived by Gerry Francis, brushed aside the leaders of the FA Carling Premiership in exhilarating style. David Howells, the Tottenham midfield player, played his usual pugnacious role in the proceedings.

On returning home to his 17th century cottage in Broxbourne, Hertfordshire, where he lives with his wife, Debbie, Howells basked in the afterglow of victory. Soon, though, life took on a different perspective. Gareth, his brother, rang to inform him that their mother, Yvonne, had died while the match was in progress.

"She hadn't been well for a while, and it wasn't as if it was sudden, but it was still a shock," Howells said. "She was only 51 and there's so much she's missed out on. It hasn't been easy since then. You try not to think about it because that's when it hits you, when it gets you down."

Howells is deeply appreciative of the sympathetic treatment he received from Francis after his bereavement. "He was brilliant," Howells said. "In the end, I decided to play in the next game against Chelsea, the day after mum's funeral, and it was probably the best thing I could have done.

"It had been a tough week. You're in limbo, you don't really know what's happening; you've got so many things to do, but I'm glad I played. Mum had always encouraged me in my football."

During the fantasy reign of Osvaldo Ardiles at White Hart Lane, Howells, 27, was rarely asked to make a contribution. No Premierhip games, one cup tie and a three-minute stint as a substitute. Though he is not an attention seeker or transfer seeker, the continual lack of first-team involvement began to hurt.

"There were no rows between Ossie and myself. I hadn't even been to see him," he said. "I knew what was happening to my career and I knew, at some stage, I would have to consider a move. But I could see the way things were developing at the club. I thought there might be a change of manager.

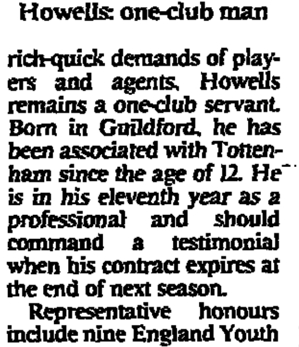
"I still admire Ossie for his principles. He did what he believed in and it might have worked eventually. You never know. Tottenham is a high-profile club and if you are good, you're brilliant. But if you're bad, you're the worst that's ever been. There's no in between here."

When Ardiles departed on November 1, Steve Perryman, the caretaker manager, brought in Howells for his one match in charge — the 2-0 defeat away to Blackburn in the Premier League. Francis arrived, liked what he saw and has since kept Howells gainfully employed. He has missed only one match, because of injury.

From deep in central midfield, he is content to fetch and carry in an unobtrusive and efficient manner. A willing waiter for a table of distinguished diners, serving the whims of Klinsmann, Sheringham *et al*. Yet he has helped give Tottenham a new resilience, prompting Premiership revival and a place in the FA Cup semi-finals, in which they play Everton at Elland Road tomorrow. He does not expect a sore knee to keep him out.

"With Gerry, we've become much fitter and more organised," he said. "We've still got very attacking players up front, and still like to go forward whenever we can, but we now work a lot harder. We haven't really changed that much." Maybe not, until one glances at the statistics — only four defeats in 26 games.

In an age of lessening loyalty, fuelled by the get-rich-quick demands of players and agents, Howells remains a one-club servant. Born in Guildford, he has been associated with Tottenham since the age of 12. He is in his eleventh year as a professional and should command a testimonial when his contract expires at the end of next season.



Howells: one-club man

Representative honours include nine England Youth caps and a non-playing part on the bench for England B, against Algeria when Graham Taylor was manager.

Wembley is beckoning Howells for the fourth time and the grand old stadium never loses its magnetism for him. "Everything about it is tremendous," he said. "Driving there, seeing the crowds, knowing all the people who have played there, its history, walking out of the tunnel."

A FA Cup final appearance on May 20, would crown his improbable comeback. Yet it would also provoke contrasting emotions. "Mum always came to the big games and I'd have loved her to be there … I'll be thinking of her."

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Lech	150	330	good	heavy	slush	fine	1	1/4
(Still plenty of snow despite warm weather)								
Obergurgl	55	155	good	varied	slush	sun	15	1/4
(Great spring snow in the trees: slushy low down)								
Schladming	15	150	slush	heavy	poor	fair	12	2/4
(Pistes well groomed and good fun if skied early)								
St Anton	70	450	fair	heavy	slush	cloud	7	6/4
(Very mixed conditions: high avalanche risk off-piste)								
FRANCE								
Alpe d'Huez	205	480	fair	heavy	fair	sun	1	29/3
(Enjoyable skiing but slushy after lunch: still warm)								
Avoriaz	260	360	good	spring	slushy	fine	3	29/3
(Highly enjoyable spring skiing: slushy low down)								
Chamonix	30	540	good	varied	closed	sun	10	30/3
(Spring conditions continue: large moguls developing)								
Tignes	195	290	fair	spring	slush	sun	9	29/3
(Very warm weather continues: north facing slopes best)								
Val d'Isère	155	330	fair	heavy	slush	sun	8	29/3
(Still very warm: top pistes good, slushy elsewhere)								
SWITZERLAND								
Arosa	110	140	good	spring	slushy	sun	12	1/4
(Great spring skiing thanks to superb piste grooming)								
C Montana	70	250	slushy	spring	slush	sun	10	30/3
(Slush skiing at all levels: some worn patches showing)								
Grindelwald	30	190	good	varied	worn	sun	11	31/3
(Still good at high altitude, but slush low down)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

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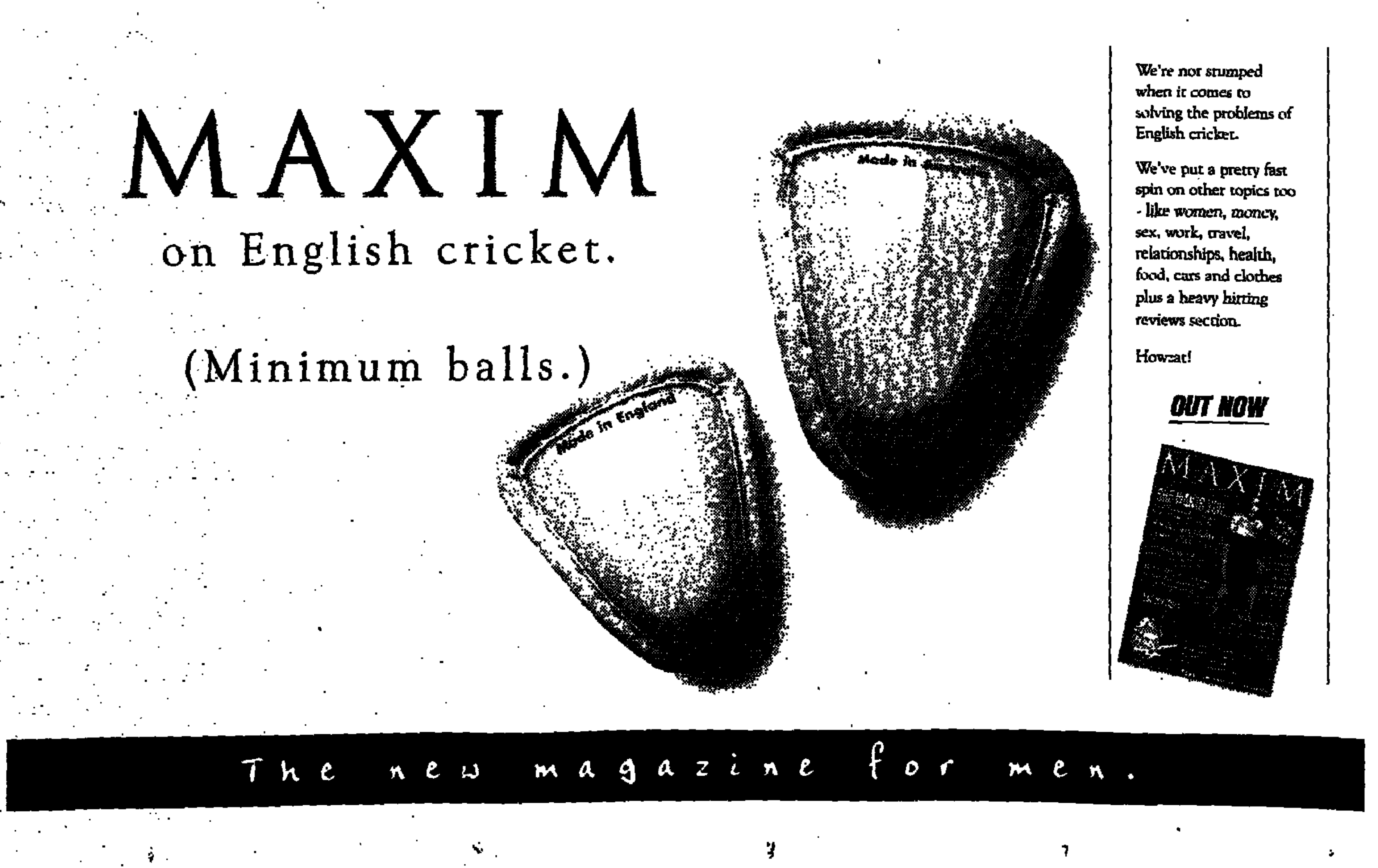

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(Minimum balls.)

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RUGBY UNION 40
CAN UNION SURVIVE FALL-OUT FROM RIVAL CODE'S REVOLUTION?

FOOTBALL 43
CAN EVERTON BLOCK TOTTENHAM'S FINAL APPROACH?

Master Oats can bridge 61-year class gap

Richard Evans believes that the cream will rise to the top in the Grand National at Aintree today

THEY say he has too much weight, that the ground is too fast, that history is stacked against him and that Aintree's fences will bring about his downfall. They are wrong.

Master Oats, the best Cheltenham Gold Cup winner for a decade and almost certainly the finest in-form chaser to line up for the Grand National since Prince Regent carried 12st 5lb into third place in 1946, can confound the pessimists and sceptics by winning the world's most famous steeplechase, sponsored by Martell, this afternoon.

The mighty Red Rum was the last horse to defy top weight in 1974, but "Rummy" carried 12 stone, compared to today's lesser burden of 11st 10lb. Master Oats is in a different league to Ginger McCain's Aintree hero and, more significantly, is due to go up 5lb in future races following his stunning Cheltenham success. Do not worry about his weight: Master Oats is *leniently* treated.

The state of the ground, probably the most important factor when considering a horse's chance, has been soft or heavy as Master Oats has trounced the best of the rest in recent months, but he is not just a confirmed mudlark.

This afternoon's surface, genuinely good ground, will be the fastest the nine-year-old has encountered since winning at Uttoxeter 17 months ago, but that is of no concern to Kim Bailey, his trainer. "If I could have chosen the ground before the race I would have picked good ground because it will help him to jump."

Jumping 30 of the most demanding fences in the land proved too much for Master Oats 12 months ago. After negotiating the first dozen in dazzling style, he became crowded by other horses and clobbered the thirteenth with the kind of force with which he hammered two obstacles at Cheltenham last month. At Cheltenham he survived; Aintree is not as forgiving and Master Oats and his jockey, Norman Williamson, parted company.

Some notable judges, including Tommy Stack, who rode Red Rum to success here in 1977, believe Master Oats's jumping will let him down again. However, Williamson knows the secret is to give his charge time and space to see and measure his fences. The smallest National field since 1980 will help his cause as the jockey of the season steers Master Oats away from potential trouble and towards the outside of the field.

For the purists, victory for Master Oats would make him the first horse to complete a Gold Cup-Grand National double since Golden Miller in 1934 and Bailey and Williamson the first jockey-trainer partnership to have won the Champion Hurdle and the two prestige chases in the same season. For the needy and greedy, the generous price of around 6-1 being offered by bookmakers is too tempting to ignore. Do not look this gift horse in the mouth.

If you are not convinced and wish to look elsewhere, Country Member should be near the top of the list. Interestingly, the recent winner of the Grand Military Gold Cup at Sandown has followed a similar path to Aintree as Maori Venture, winner of the 1987 Grand National, who was also trained by Andy Turnell. The ten-year-old has a touch of class for a horse running off bottom weight, jumps soundly and will relish this faster ground.

Dubacilla, runner-up to Master Oats on her last two starts, is also expected by her owners to enjoy the better going and her breeding suggests this distance will suit. However, her tendency to be nearer last than first for much of a race will be a hindrance here with the leaders unlikely to "come back" to the field on this ground.

Miinnehoma, last year's winner, had a perfect trial for this year's encounter when finishing third behind Master Oats in the Gold Cup. However, the drying ground is a big worry for the Martin Pipe horse who is undoubtedly better with the mud flying.

By contrast, Young Hustler can step up on his fifth at Cheltenham as this fast ground brings out the best in the Nigel Twiston-Davies-trained chaser. A bold jumper who was third to The Fellow in last year's Gold Cup, he has been backed down from 20-1 to as low as 6-1 in the last week.

If Crystal Spirit takes to the National fences — he sometimes appears a bit soft — a bold run can be expected from Ian Balding's chaser. Although he has never raced beyond three miles, his breeding suggests he can last home.

Party Politics, the winner here in 1992, has some form, notably his close second to Master Oats at Chepstow in December, which gives him every chance but he has had various operations to help his breathing.

For those looking for long shots, Nuaffe, generally available at 25-1, and Topsham Bay, as big as 40-1, hold some each-way appeal.

Richard Evans
1 MASTER OATS
2 Country Member
3 Topsham Bay
4 Young Hustler

Julian Muscat
1 ROYAL ATHLETE
2 Young Hustler
3 Into The Red
4 Dubacilla

Thunderer
1 CRYSTAL SPIRIT
2 Young Hustler
3 Dubacilla
4 Chatam

Gerald Hubbard
1 MASTER OATS
2 Party Politics
3 Royal Athlete
4 Dubacilla

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Price cuts dejected figure in Masters

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

NICK PRICE continues to puzzle at Augusta. One of the game's conundrums is why the best player in the world is reduced to infuriating anonymity in the Masters. He can win the Open at Turnberry with a rousing finish. He can survive the oven-like temperatures of the US PGA in Tulsa, Oklahoma. But he cannot draw a bead at Augusta National Golf Club.

By contrast, Severiano Ballesteros can be at sixes and sevens on other courses but the moment he turns into Magnolia Lane and smells the flowers he becomes transformed. After a lacklustre 75 in his first round, Ballesteros burst forth in his second round. He was three under par at the turn and then achieved one of the most prized birdies of all, a two at the 12th, to move to four under after 30 holes. Price nearly missed the cut in the 1994 Masters. He looked certain of missing it this year, adding to his doleful record in the first of the year's major championships, where he has only twice finished in the top ten in nine appearances, until he mounted a stirring comeback.

David Miller 41

He had a 76 in the first round and took 41 strokes on the front nine of his second round. As he made the brief walk from the 9th green to the 10th tee Price was an aggregate of nine over par.

At that point he was 15 strokes behind David Frost, his friend and colleague, who was born a few miles away from him in South Africa. Frost was level with Phil Mickelson and José María Olazábal, the defending champion. All three had started with 66s in the first round.

The second day dawned in complete contrast to the first. The rain and low cloud of Thursday was replaced by an early morning haze and a light fog that caused a 45-minute delay to the start of play. By the time Price teed off the sun had burned off the fog and Augusta was at its most beautiful.

Jeff Maggert was one who took advantage of the conditions, reaching the turn in 33, three under par. Gary Player was out in 35, Arnold Palmer in 36 and even Sandy Lyle managed an even par 36.

Price was in trouble from the start. He had said he felt comfortable here this year. "I don't have anything like the pressure on me that I had the last two years," Price, the Open and US PGA champion, said on Tuesday.

But it did not appear that way when he hit only two greens in regulation figures on his front nine. He was walking quickly and, to this eye at least, his swing seemed a fraction quicker than usual.

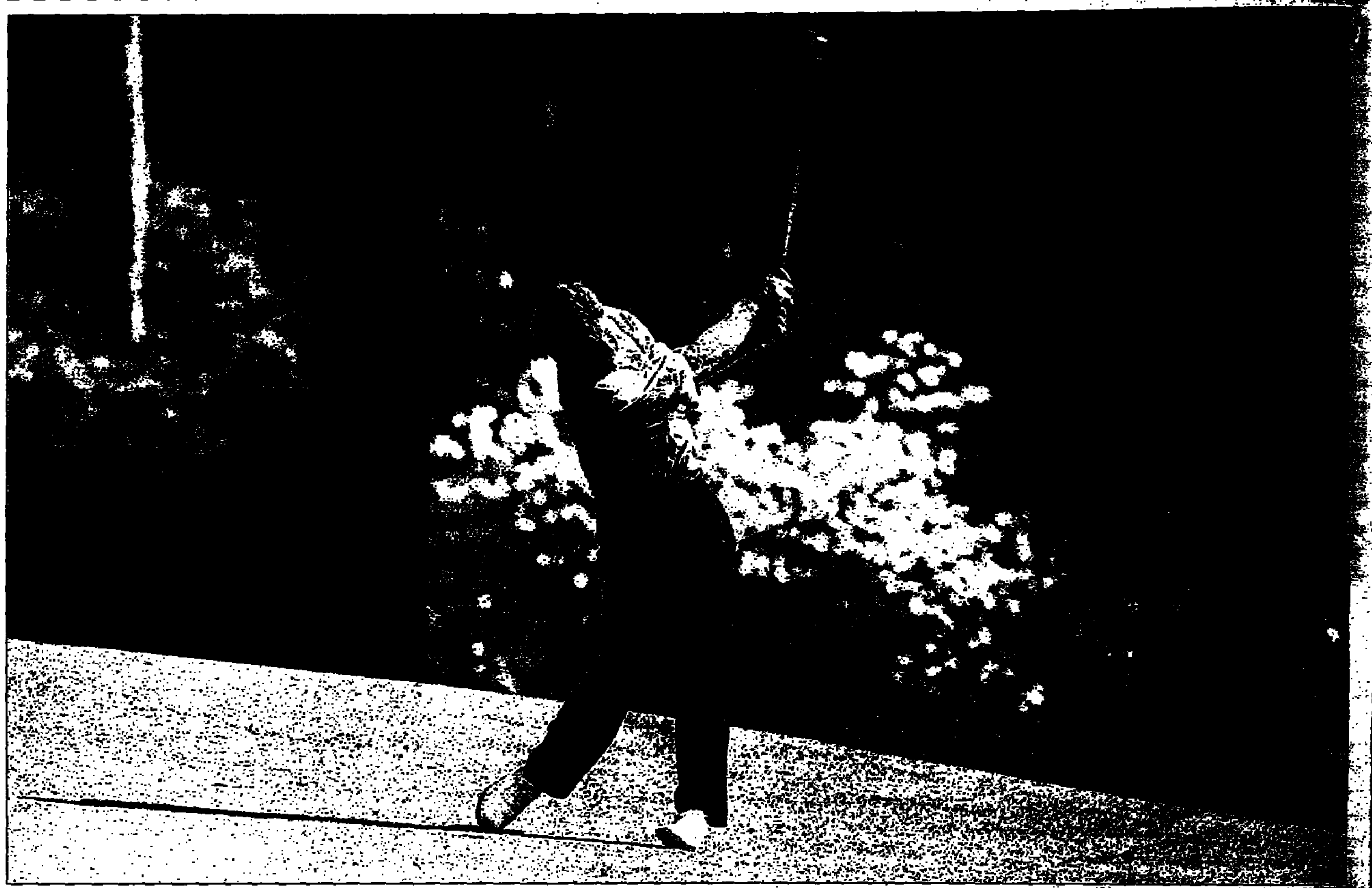
Even the presence of David Leadbetter, his coach, among the spectators who were following him could do nothing for Price. Having bogeyed the 3rd, 5th and 6th holes, he got into even worse trouble on the 8th.

This hole has been lengthened to bring the bunker on the right of the fairway 240 or so yards from the tee more in to play. It caught Price's drive and his first attempt to get out hit the lip and fell back. It took him five strokes to reach the putting surface, two more to hole out. On the 9th, salt was rubbed into Price's evident wounds when his second shot pitched past the pin and then spun back down the green that tilts from back to front, and off the putting surface. Price had to hole from six feet for a four. By then, Leadbetter had deserted Price, moving to the putting green, where he stood guard over Nick Faldo, his other famous pupil. Faldo was stroking putt after putt, his left hand below his right, under Leadbetter's watchful gaze.

A drive into the trees on the 10th seemed to be more of the same for Price but then he birdied the 11th and the 13th, launching a furious attack on the remaining holes in an attempt to beat the cut. In this he had a chance of being helped by the rule that pertains at Augusta, namely that any player within ten strokes of the leader is considered to have beaten the cut even if he is outside the top 44 players.

As Price covered the 13th, 14th and 15th, which have pars of five, four, five, in a mere 11 strokes, there were glimpses of the man who holds the course record here, a 63, which he set in 1986. There was also a reminder of the man who, since he won his first major title, the US PGA in 1992, has won 16 of the 65 events that he has entered, earning himself more than £4 million in prize-money.

Price bogeyed the 18th to finish with a 73 and a 36-hole total of 149, five over par. Once again, it seemed that the best golfer in the world was nothing like the best golfer at Augusta.



Price, struggling to beat the cut, plays his approach shot to the 2nd green yesterday. He finished with a 73 to add to his first-round 76. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

US unless stated

Early second-round scores
70: B Bryant, J Maggert, G Brewer
73: A Palmer, D Pride, F Nobilo (NZ).
76: * T Kuehne, * T Jackson
77: * G Yamamoto.
81: I Baker-Finch (Aus).
89: B Casper

First round
66: D Frost (SA), P Mickelson, J M Olazábal (Sp)
67: J Nicklaus, D Gilford (GB), C Pavin
68: C Beck, M O'Meara.
69: S Hoch, H Irwin, D Edwards, I Woosnam (GB), W Grady (Aus), L Janzen, D Love
70: C Stadler, M Ozaki (Japan), M Calcavecchia, B Crenshaw, P Azinger, B Henninger, N Faldo (GB), J Huston.
71: M A Jiménez (Sp), J Haas, D Forsman, B Glasson, P Stewart, R Floyd, T Lehman, B Langer (Ger), F Couples, C Montgomerie (GB).
72: M Sullivan, F Zoeller, B Lietzke, E Els (SA), L Roberts, * T Woods, C Strange, P Jacobsen, T Nakajima (Japan).
73: M Hemen, J Sluman, C Dennis, J Cook, B Estes, S Elkington (Aus), K Perry, G Norman (Aus), M McCumber, T Watson.
74: J Morse, C Coody, D Waldorf, L Wadkins, T Kite, N Lancaster.
75: S Lowery, A Lyle (GB), J Daly, S Ballesteros (Sp), M McNulty (Zim).
76: R Fehr, B Faxon, G Player (SA), M Brooks, L Mize, N Price (Zim).
77: J McGovern, * L James (GB), V Singh (Fiji), M Springer, H Sutton, B Bryant.
78: J Maggert.
79: G Brewer, B Casper, * T Jackson, I Baker-Finch (Aus), * T Kuehne, D Pride, A Palmer.
81: F Nobilo (NZ).
84: * G Yamamoto.
88: D Ford.
* *denotes amateur*

Schumacher treads water in wake of Coulthard

FROM OLIVER HOLT
IN BUENOS AIRES

IF Michael Schumacher thought he had seen the last of South American adventures in deep water, he was sadly mistaken. After his well-documented escape during a diving expedition off the Brazilian coast last week, a thunderstorm turned the practice and qualifying sessions yesterday for the Argentine Grand Prix here tomorrow into a high-speed splash through a myriad of rivers and streams.

Action on the track was suspended several times while marshals removed stricken Formula One cars from their resting places in puddles by the side of the circuit. Most of the time, the bemused drivers sat in team garages while mechanics tried to brush pools of standing water out of the pit lane.

Teams and drivers awoke to torrential rain early yesterday morning and the thunder and forked lightning continued throughout the day. If this had been a football match, the game would have been abandoned because of a waterlogged pitch. The Argentine autumn showed little consideration for the spring of the Formula One season.

Schumacher was one of the few to avoid a spin all day but he lost control of his Benetton-Renault several times during the final minutes of qualifying and finished a lowly ninth on the provisional grid. David Coulthard added to his growing reputation as a fine wet-weather driver when he secured provisional pole position late in the session.

Damon Hill, his team-mate, spun off in a long, wild pirouette on only his fourth lap of the morning, his Williams-Renault flinging up mud as it careered across the grass before coming to rest in a gravel trap.

Johnny Herbert, in a Benetton-Renault, was next to go, almost in the same place as Hill, then Ukyo Katayama, in his Tyrrell-Yamaha, made a spectacular exit, coming to rest in a puddle and throwing up a huge plume of spray.

Hill spun again in the afternoon qualifying session and only Jean Alesi, in a Ferrari, seemed comfortable in the conditions. A renowned wet-weather maestro, he was quickest in both practice sessions and for a portion of qualifying until he was overtaken by Coulthard, who now has the platform to build on his impressive start to the season and put the disappointment of his disqualification in Brazil behind him. The consolation for the rest is that it can hardly be any worse than this when qualifying reaches its climax this afternoon.

Despite that, Hill and Coulthard were united in the opinion that if the weather forecasts are right and the storm continues throughout the weekend, the 72-lap race tomorrow — the first Argentine Grand Prix for 14 years — on this rebuilt circuit on the outskirts of the city could be placed in jeopardy.

"I don't like to use the word dangerous," Coulthard said, "but it's incredibly tricky. When there is a car in front even 200 yards away you are driving blind because of the spray. You are still flat out but without a clue of what's ahead.

"They say racing drivers have nerves of steel but I'm not ashamed to admit that it is very frightening out there in those conditions. I will be talking to other drivers to see if they are happy about racing."

Hill was more candid. "It would be tempting fate to race in these conditions," he said. "But it is all out of our hands. It is up to the FIA [the International Motor Sport Federation] and the stewards to use their judgment."

Schumacher seemed to put his fears behind him, running near the top of the times throughout the day before his late slide. "The water may have been deep, but at least there were no sharks."

CHAMPIONSHIP STANDINGS

DRIVERS: 1, Berger 10pts; 2, Hakkinen 6, 3, Alesi 4; 4, Blundell 3; 5, Salo 2; 6, Suzuki 1.

CONSTRUCTORS: 1, Ferrari 14pts; 2, McLaren 9; 3, Tyrrell 2; 4, Ligier 1.

REMAINING GRANDS PRIX

Tomorrow: Argentine, Buenos Aires; Apr 30: San Marino, Imola; May 14: Spanish, Barcelona; May 28: Monaco, Monte Carlo; June 11: Canadian, Montreal; July 2: French, Magny Cours; July 16: British, Silverstone; July 30: German, Hockenheim; Aug 13: Hungarian, Budapest; Aug 27: Belgian, Spa-Francorchamps; Sept 10: Italian, Monza; Sept 24: Portuguese, Estoril; Oct 8: European, Nürburgring; Oct 22: Pacific, Aida, Japan; Oct 29: Japanese, Suzuka; Nov 12: Australian, Adelaide.

NEXT WEEK
The remaining finishers in the London Marathon

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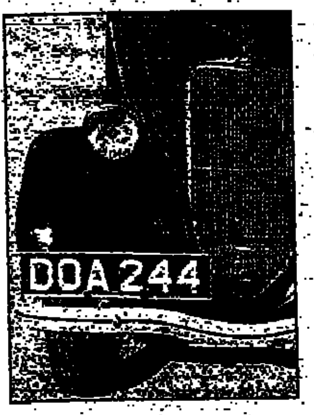


Cut-price ticket offer for Beaulieu classics

Page 5

CAR 95

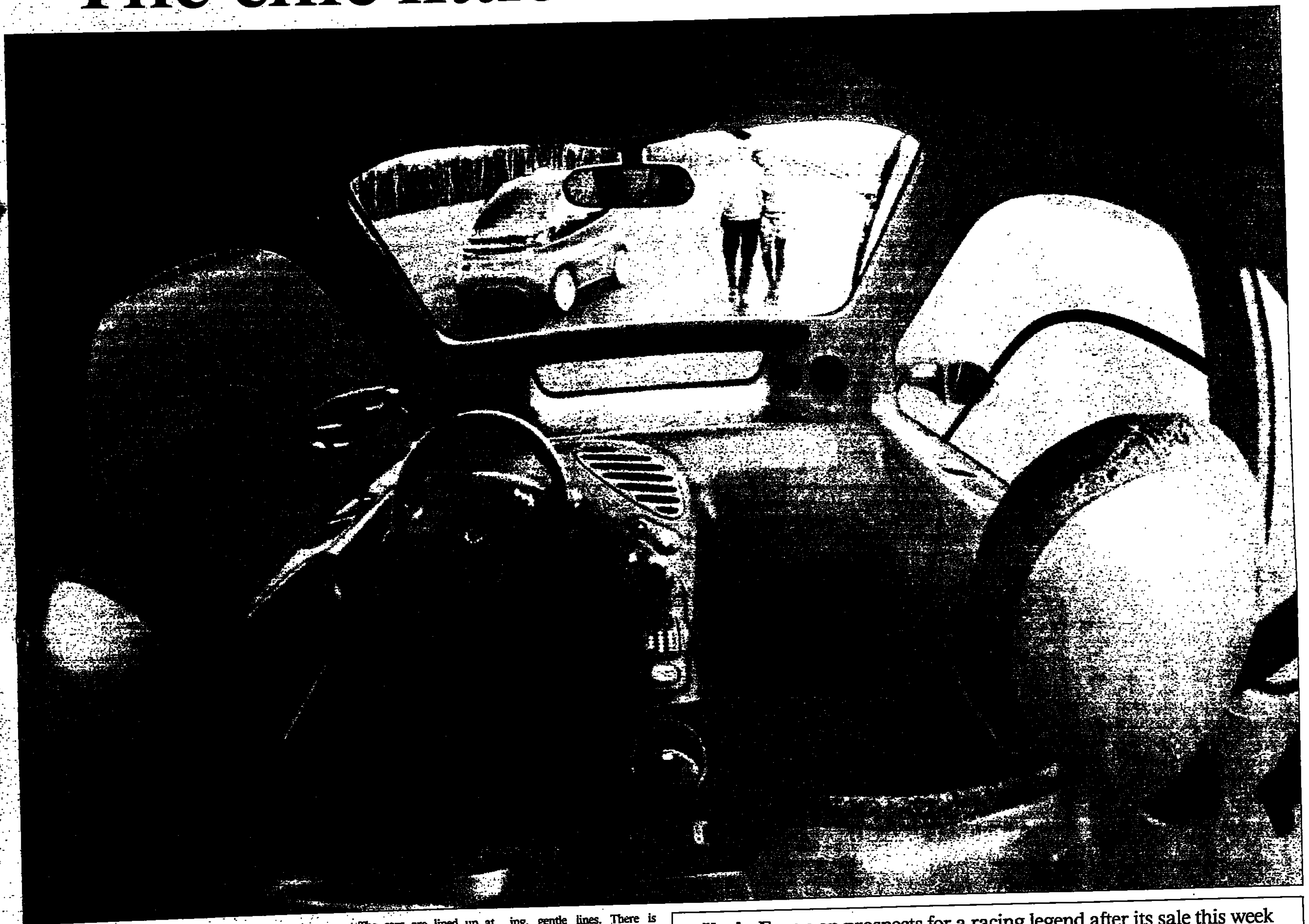
Make mine a BMW says Caroline Charles

Page 10

SATURDAY APRIL 8 1995

Vaughan Freeman assesses a bold approach to solving city traffic chaos and says the tiny Tulip is …

The chic little road to the future



Imagine a silent, fume-free car which would carry two people in comfort at 45mph, have its own navigation system and be blessed with a guaranteed parking space wherever it went.

It could also be abandoned when not needed so the user could escape the costs of tax, servicing and depreciation, which on a new car can easily add up to £100 a week.

Such a car is already here: the Tulip, a tiny, blindingly orange shuttle of a buggy, is battery-powered and operated by a "magic key" that looks like a television remote control. A parking space wherever you want one comes with this 7ft long two-seater, which gives users an in-car town guide via a mobile phone link to a central headquarters.

The Tulip system goes on trial next year in the French city of Tours and the designers believe their "smart car of the future" will be in use by the end of the decade.

The Tulip (Transport Urbain Libre Individuel et Public) is the brainchild of a French conglomerate, headed by PSA Peugeot-Citroën, which includes Europe's biggest private passenger transport operator, VIA GTI, and the electrical engineering division of the Alcatel Alsthom group.

Users will subscribe to the Tulip network at a cost of about £25 a year, and pay up to £5 an hour at today's prices to use a car. In return, the driver gets a control unit that resembles the TV version and their own personal identification number.

The cars are lined up at parking ranks for between 30 and 50 vehicles at city centre focal points such as railway and bus stations and town halls, with ranks of three or four in residential areas.

Users either phone ahead to book a car or visit the rank to see if one is available. A light on top shows green if free, flashes if booked, and shines red if the car is out of service or being recharged. The user points the controller at the vehicle, punches in the pin number, and the car is ready for use.

The cars are cute and chic. More bubble than anything, the Tulip is quite tall, with two wide doors that make entry easy even for the carrier-bag laden, and an opening rear window makes loading easier.

Inside, everything is swooping, gentle lines. There is plenty of headroom and a feeling of roominess at odds with its size. It is built of five main recyclable sections; the material used is polyurethane foam covered with polyester resin-injected fibreglass, and said to be almost twice as shock-absorbing as steel.

A computer-style "mouse" on the central console dictates what information comes up on the liquid crystal display that runs the width of the cleanly-styled dashboard. The mouse also controls heating, the radio and air conditioning.

Before setting off, the user calls up the central control station, which also manages reservations, maintenance and billing, using the "magic key", which is plugged into the central console and becomes

Continued on page 3, col 6

Kevin Eason on prospects for a racing legend after its sale this week

Benetton boss set to make Lotus blossom

ALESSANDRO Benetton, head of the controversial clothing to Formula One cars group, could soon be at the head of one of Britain's most famous carmakers.

Final details emerged this week of the sale of Lotus Group to 21 Invest International Holdings, described as a British merchant bank but one which is controlled by two Italian families, the Bonomis and the Benettons.

Lotus has suffered a chequered history of financial struggle and takeovers in recent years but the new deal looks set to save the famous name.

Bugatti, which bought the group from General Motors only 16 months ago, was unable to hang on to the business, based at Hethel near Norwich, because of its own financial problems.

The Anglo-Italian combine could prove the best option for Lotus managers, desperate to break free and run their own business. Adrian Palmer, Lotus's managing director, once tried to organise a management buyout, without success.

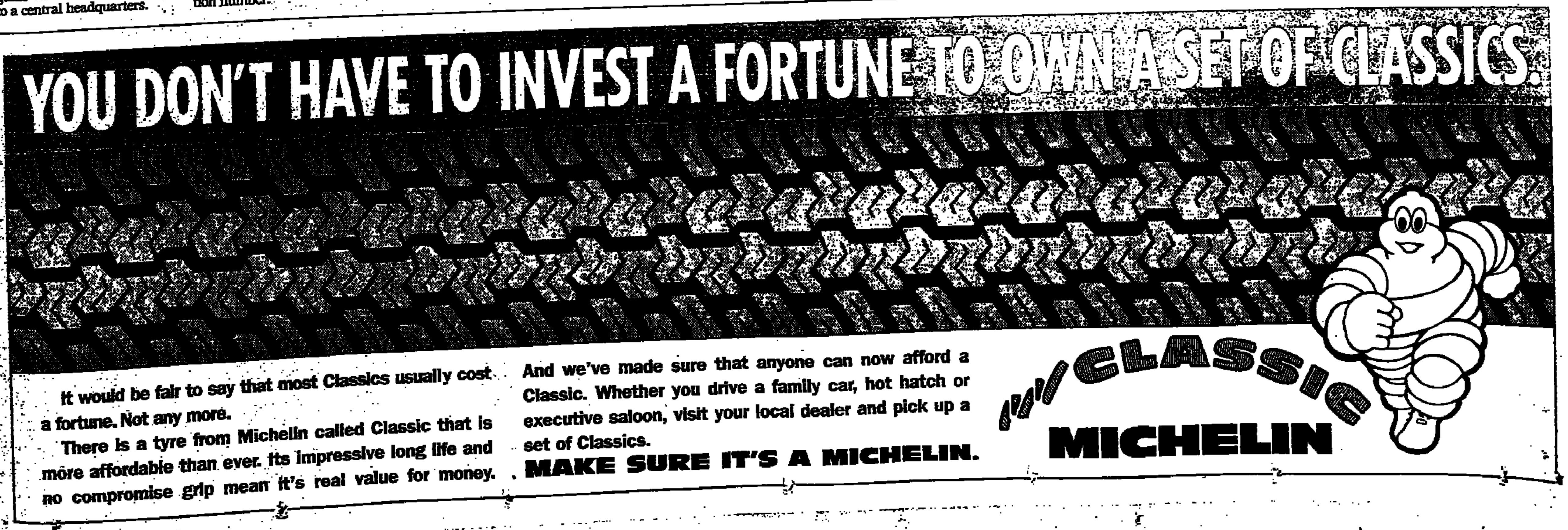
First indications are that 21 Invest will stick by ambitious investment plans drawn up by Palmer and his team and possibly allow the business to go it alone at some time in the next three to five years.

However, 21 Invest will want seats on the board to shape immediate plans, in return for the £36 million purchase price. That will probably mean Alessandro Benetton and Andrea Bonomi, head of the consortium, moving into prime positions at Lotus.

That concession is unlikely to offend managers who grew increasingly concerned about Lotus's chances of survival under Bugatti. Signor Bonomi is regarded as a shrewd and incisive figure, and Alessandro Benetton is already known worldwide, through the family clothing business and the world championship-winning Formula One racing team.

In Britain, Benetton already has a 49.9 per cent share in the TWR Group, the business founded by Tom

Continued on page 3, col 8



YOU DON'T HAVE TO INVEST A FORTUNE TO OWN A SET OF CLASSICS.

It would be fair to say that most Classics usually cost a fortune. Not any more.

There is a tyre from Michelin called Classic that is more affordable than ever. Its impressive long life and no compromise grip mean it's real value for money.

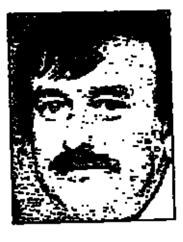
And we've made sure that anyone can now afford a Classic. Whether you drive a family car, hot hatch or executive saloon, visit your local dealer and pick up a set of Classics.

MAKE SURE IT'S A MICHELIN.

'A Ford Escort I saw sold at auction this week for £825 was on a dealer's forecourt the next day for £1,795'

Hammering out the pitfalls of a bargain buy

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

According to those social surveys that occasionally offer a snapshot of the nation, used car dealers are down there with politicians and journalists in the league table of trustworthiness. You can trust me to make no comment on the last of those, except to say that the antipathy towards car dealers is almost as hard to understand.

Undoubtedly there are a few backstreet operators flogging ringed motors (see how contagious is the parlance) and many more have an annoying habit of thinking that the "very popular" car they sold you a year ago at a price that broke their heart has somehow become "hard to sell" when you arrive to trade it in. You know the sort of thing.

But of the half-dozen dealers I would claim to know, only one has ever sent me away in mutton disguised as lamb; and in that case I think the dealer knew about as much about the vehicle, a Land Rover, as I did. The reality of how dealers operate can be unravelled at locations around the country: if you want to out-deal a dealer, go to a car auction. I have visited a few lately and if you wish to know where dealer margins come from, take the example of a D-registered Ford Escort with five months MoT sold at auction in Bristol this week for £825. I would have said this was what the trade calls a "very tidy" car and 24 hours after the auction, I traced it to a forecourt where it was carrying the very tidy price of £1,795.

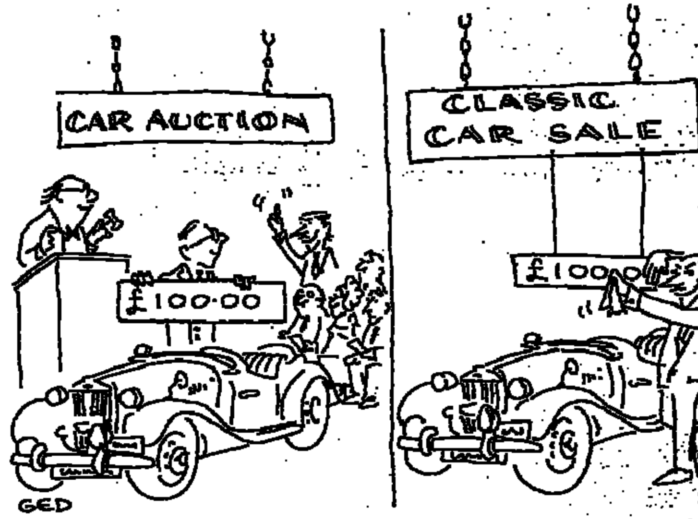
Based on Parker's Guide, the dealer had bought at £140 below the bottom book price and was selling at £100 below the middle book price. Given that the dealer had put a new MoT on the car and has to pay overheads no matter how long it sits outside his premises, this seems a reasonable enough margin (or a shocking 100 per cent mark-up, depending on how you look at it).

If dealers can sell at twice what they paid, why shouldn't we cut out the middle man? The answer is that increasing numbers of us do, and car auctions, which used to be shabby affairs where you needed your wallet welded inside a pocket, have become something of a social occasion. They even have cafeterias.

Furthermore, some of the prices are spectacular: recently I watched a dealer buy a Jaguar XJS in wonderful condition for £6,000, half the book price. Big cars with potential garage bills to match are the bargain territory at auctions, many ex-fleet vehicles with plenty of mileage but, because they have been regularly serviced, with plenty of life left in them, too.

There are those who baulk at auction buying because of the risk, but those selling have to warrant that the facts on the windscreen are correct (or mark the car "sold as seen") and buyers pay a relatively small sum, usually about £60, to indemnify them against the possibility that the car is a patched-up insurance write-off or has outstanding hire purchase.

You then get an hour after paying a deposit to test the car, so taking a friendly mechanic is a good idea. What you do not get is a warranty *per se* and indeed the growth of auctions has helped encourage forecourt dealers to offer warranties.



You may not fancy the nerve-wracking element of buying at auction, but at least bear in mind that next time you visit a used car dealer, you are talking to a man who does, and has.

Whatever is going on over the M25? Last year we were told the Government had woken up to something every driver knows, which is that more roads equals more traffic. Now it says, having already abandoned the ridiculous scheme to make the M25 into a 14-lane super-highway, that widening will go ahead anyway.

There will be 10 lanes between junctions 12 and 16, except for the bit between junctions 14 and 15 which will have 12 lanes. This is absolute nonsense. We are building in bottlenecks, at a cost of £75 million. The plan is daft and dangerous.

THE AA'S GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● **LONDON**
Earls Court: Ideal Home Exhibition — delays daily in area between 10am and 8pm from until Sunday.
A406 Upper Edmonton: road width reduced on Lea Valley viaduct until end of year.
Westminster Bridge: closed until Monday, diversions via Lambeth Bridge.
A219 Putney Bridge: reduced to one lane each way for repairs until June.

● **SOUTH EAST**
M25 Surrey J7-8 (M23/Reigate): regular delays, affects traffic joining from M23 northbound.
M25 Surrey J10-11 (A3/Chertsey): lane closures either way.
A3 Guildford: rush hour delays until end of May. These may be lifted for the Easter holiday weekend.
A27 Chichester Bypass: contraflow between Stockbridge and Bognor Rd roundabouts, with lane closures also at Westhampnett until May.
M275 Hampshire: between Portsmouth and M27, contraflow for major maintenance.
A420 near Faringdon, Oxfordshire: temporary lights 24 hours a day, overnight and weekend restrictions until Monday. Regular delays between Oxford and Swindon.
A4260 Adderbury, Oxfordshire: Oxford road closed between The Green and The Station Yard, industrial estate for repairs to Duchess Bridge until midnight Sunday.

● **SOUTH WEST**
M5 Avon J18-19 (Avonmouth-Portbury): lane closures each way as part of the new Severn crossing works.
M5 Glos J11-12: contraflow until September.
A417 Glos: contraflow on Barnwood Bypass, between Glos trading estate and C & G roundabouts until mid-July.
A350 Warminster, Wilts: temporary lights 24 hours a day, road closed on Sunday.
A350 Semington, Wilts: roadworks in High St, long delays.
A3102 Swindon: contraflow on Wootton Bassett Rd, east of Whitehill Way.
A36 Somerset: major roadworks near Norton Saint Philip, at A366 junction until May.
A358 Taunton: roundabout construction on Bishops Lydeard Rd at Penn Elm Hill.
A31 Dorset: major roadworks on Ashley Heath and Woolsbridge roundabouts, long delays.
A35 Dorset: temporary lights between Puddletown and Tolpuddle until May.
A3074 Cornwall: roadworks between Carbis Bay and St Ives; peak-time delays, will affect traffic heading to A30.
A388 Hatt, Cornwall: roadworks and temporary lights.

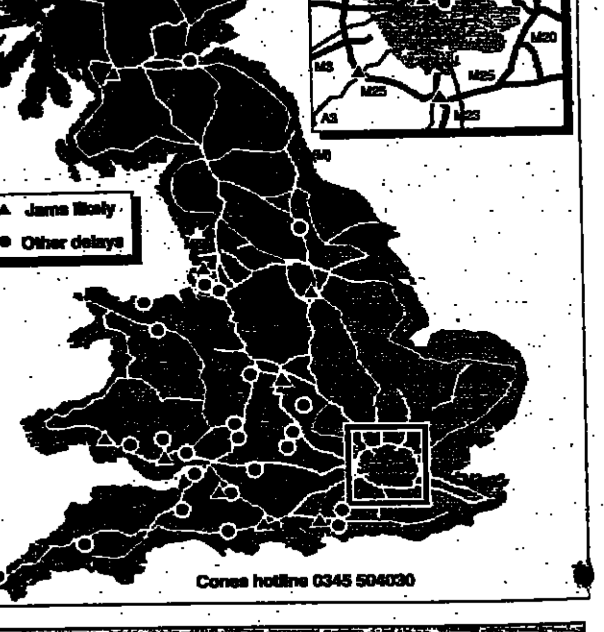
● **MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA**
A43 Silverstone: resurfacing work with temporary lights daily, no work on Sundays or over Easter Weekend (Until April 20).
A4123 near Dudley: one lane closed each way on Birmingham New Rd, between Burnt Tree Island and Tipton Rd junction until June.
A45 Stonebridge: flyover construction at A452 junction and widening between M42 J6 and Stonebridge Island, 40mph limit and lane closures, until June.

● **NORTH**
Grand National today at Aintree racecourse.
M6 J20-21A (Lymm-Croft): major roadworks continue near Thelwall Viaduct until May.
M63 J10-J12 (Gatley/Brinksway): entry slip closed northbound at J11 (Roscoes roundabout).
M18 Doncaster: contraflow between J3 and J4, southbound exit slip road at J3 closed.
A633 Rotherham: gas repairs on Barnsley Road at Wath, near to Church St. Temporary lights, long delays.
A1 Boroughbridge, North Yorks: road closed between A6055 Knaresborough Rd and B6265 Ripon Rd, from 11.30pm today to 8am Sunday. Diversion through Boroughbridge and Kirby Hill.

● **WALES**
A467 Newport: contraflow on Forge Lane, work on A48 at Tredegar Park roundabout.
M4 J32 Coryton: lane restrictions on all approaches, will affect A470.
A5 Maerdy: Improvements continue at Glyn bends. Temporary lights and short-term closures until end July.
A55 Clwyd: one lane each way between Llanddulas and Colwyn Bay on Sunday, delays expected.
M4 J47-J48 (Penllergaer/-Hendy) West Glamorgan: only one lane westbound because of resurfacing work at Loughor river bridge. Long delays, restrictions should be lifted for Easter.
A465 between Llandarcy and Aberdulais: contraflow along Saltings viaduct for resurfacing. Add an extra 30 minutes to your journey at peak-times.
A4223 Pontypridd: a one-way system on Gelliwastad Road because of widening work until end of June.

● **SCOTLAND**
Edinburgh: width restrictions on High St between the North and South bridges until end of June.
A8 Glasgow: Paisley Rd West closed eastbound between Portman St and Paisley Rd Toll, with diversions for city bound traffic.

● **NORTHERN IRELAND**
A26 Co Londonderry: temporary lights on Greenhill Rd at junction with Ballymoney Bypass until September.



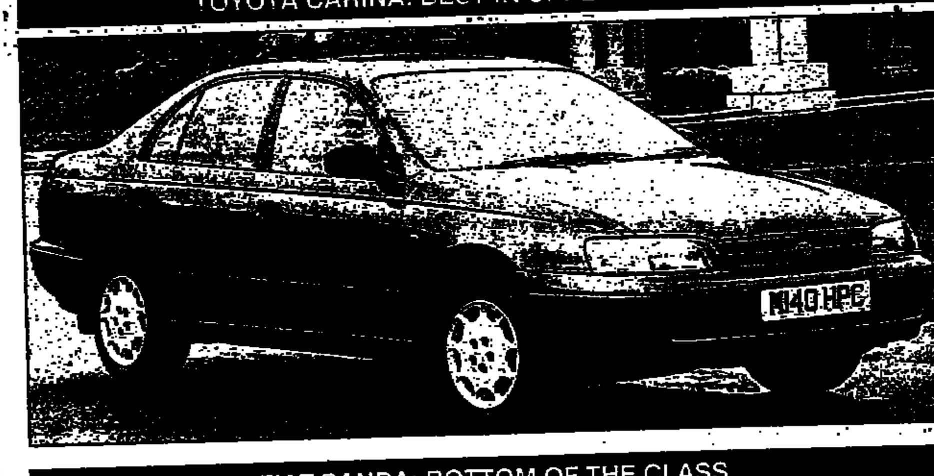
Alan Copps analyses a 'happiness index' that covers 90% of today's cars

MERCEDES E CLASS: TOP EXECUTIVE

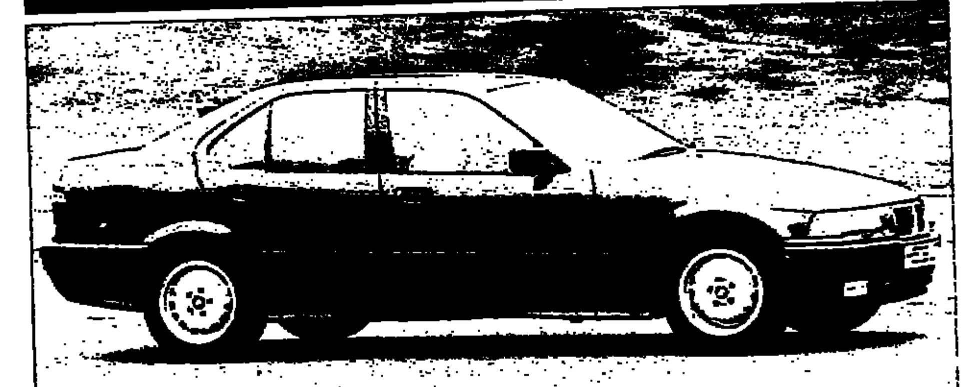
PEUGEOT 106: TOP MINI

TOYOTA COROLLA: BEST IN LOWER MID-RANGE

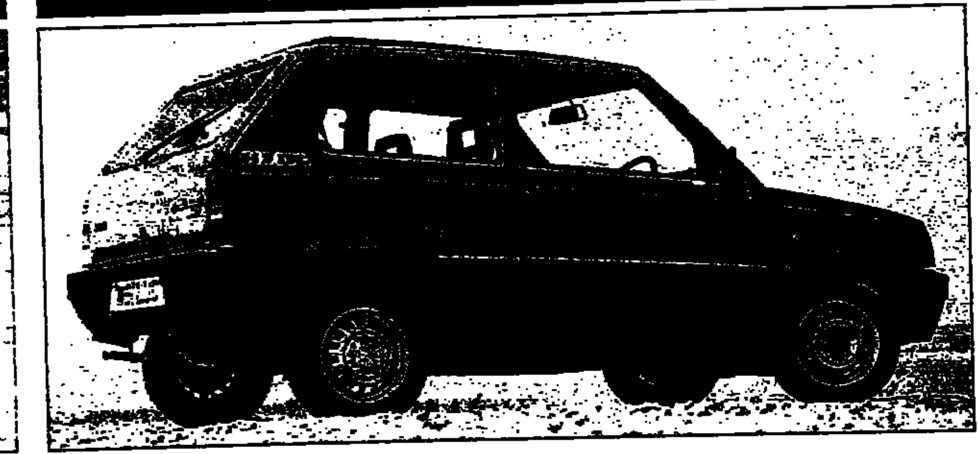
TOYOTA CARINA: BEST IN UPPER MID-RANGE



BMW 3 SERIES: FAVOURITE WITH WOMEN



FIAT PANDA: BOTTOM OF THE CLASS



Winners and losers in the Class of 95

The larger the car you drive, the more likely you are to be satisfied with it: and European makers are rapidly catching up with the quality and reliability of their Japanese counterparts. Those are the two main conclusions of a new survey described as a "happiness index" of British motorists.

Perhaps the most significant fact to be drawn from it, though, is something we've suspected for some time and which has been confirmed by the *CAR 95* postbag: there's nothing people like to talk about (or even write about) more than their motor.

Cornhill Insurance launched its Motor Test by sending a 100-question survey to 70,000 of its customers. The standard response to such a cold mail shot would be about 10 per cent, or 7,000 responses. Instead, there were 23,000 replies, enough data to produce an eight-page leaflet for each customer and a series of reports detailing the opinions and ratings of 68 leading models.

Those models represent 90 per cent of cars on the road. Cornhill reduced the responses to statistics and graded each model A, B, C or D in four categories: driving performance, user friendliness, design and marque loyalty.

If cars took A-levels, then Mercedes-Benz — which dominated the executive section — would waltz into Oxbridge with four straight As, while the best mini, the Peugeot 106, would struggle into some obscure ex-poly on two Bs and two Cs. Toyota topped both the upper and lower mid-ranges with the Carina (two As, two Bs) and the Corolla (Two As, one B and One C) respectively.

So does that mean bigger, more expensive cars are really better, or just that having spent a lot of money, people are reluctant to admit they were wrong? Motor industry analyst Daniel Jones, who is professor of management at the University of Wales, believes the replies give one of the most accurate pictures of customer satisfaction ever achieved.

"There are few dud cars on the market today," he said. "Most people are happy with what they drive. The hard work carmakers have put into improving quality and reliability over the past decade has clearly paid off.

"Those able to afford executive and luxury cars were the most satisfied. They clearly got what they paid for. But cars in the upper mid-range category are catching up fast. Smaller cars don't excite so much — they are there to get us from A to B — manufacturers please note!

"UK drivers clearly like French small cars and executive cars built by Germans, but the Japanese now set standards in both the lower and upper mid-range classes. The good news for the UK is that the cars concerned — the Toyota Carina, Nissan Primera and Honda Accord — are made in the UK and the Toyota Corolla and Honda Civic will be shortly."

> 'There are few duds. Most are happy with their cars'

Professor Jones predicts that the British motor industry will turn from the biggest drain on our balance of payments to our biggest export earner by the end of the decade.

The results contained their fair share of surprises. Of the replies, 28 per cent came from women. Interestingly, they proved themselves resistant to advertising. Far from falling for the "Thelma and Louise" ads for the Peugeot 106 or the adventures of Nicole and Papa in the Renault Clio, they voted as their favourite car that macho symbol, the BMW 3-Series. It was followed by the Toyota Corolla and the Rover 400 range. Despite their impressive showing in the overall mini section, the two French hatchbacks rated eighth and ninth among women's favourites.

Just over half the cars surveyed were bought second-hand and Mercedes again dominated the section with the E and C-class/190 ranges, followed by the Toyota Carina, Volvo 700 and Toyota Corolla. Among others to make a strong showing in this category were Honda, Audi, Ford with the Mondeo, Mitsubishi, Mazda and Isuzu. The other manufacturer which came out well on all fronts was Saab. A notable absentee from the listings was Jaguar; apparently Jaguar drivers don't fill in questionnaires.

Another surprise was in the section for other vehicles, mainly four-wheel-drives, in which the Mitsubishi Shogun did well, scoring one C and three Bs. The Range Rover/Land-Rover scored three Cs but got an A for customer loyalty. In general, buyers showed remarkable loyalty to marques, with Nissan and Toyota again scoring As in this section.

Professor Jones insists there were no real lemons. Complaints mainly centred on lack of storage space, problems with cleaning carpets and seats and, predictably, access and legroom in minis and fuel consumption in larger models. The results did, though, suggest that motorists know an ageing or obsolescent model when they see one: the Fiat Panda was the only car to score four Ds, the Lada Samara picked up three and the Rover Mini two.

The top three in each class were as follows: Mini/supermini: Peugeot 106, Nissan Micra, Renault Clio. Lower mid-range: Toyota Corolla, Honda Civic, Peugeot 306. Upper mid-range: Toyota Carina, Nissan Primera, BMW 3-Series. Executive: Mercedes E-Class, Mercedes C-Class, Saab 9000.

Cornhill believes the survey will provide car buyers with key information on quality to assist in making a wise choice. It will provide reports on the results for individual models on request.

● *Further information from Cornhill on 01483 552714*

Classics in comeback

Classic cars have bounced back into favour with still "sensible" prices attracting enthusiastic collectors, says Cap Motor Research. The organisation's *Black Book* guide to pricing in April says that auctions are finding buyers looking for a wide range of cars, particularly MGBs, Triumph models up to the TR7 and even Mark 1 Volkswagen Golf GTis and early examples of the Peugeot 205 GTi, which achieved cult status in the 1980s. CAP says drivers are looking for classics because they are "fed up" with modern jelly mould designs.

Test for young drivers

A test designed to take the "attitude" out of driving among young people was launched this week by Steven Norris, the Minister for Road Safety. The Learner Driver Questionnaire has been designed by the AA to uncover likely behaviour on the roads among youngsters starting their driving careers, such as whether they will be inclined to take unnecessary risks. The pack will be sent to all secondary schools later this year.

A vintage celebration

Cartier will sponsor the competition for pre-war coachbuilt cars at the Goodwood Festival of Speed on June 25. The "Style et Luxe" competition is expected to attract about 40 of the world's finest cars, some not seen in Britain before, according to Lord March, who opens the grounds of his house and the race track for the celebration of vintage, veteran and classic cars.

Hi-fi insurance offer

Kenwood is offering free insurance to buyers of its car hi-fi systems to take some of the anxiety out of owning a sound system that could be a target for thieves. The company's scheme is valid for a year and current owners can renew policies for a £24.95 premium. If a new Kenwood hi-fi is stolen, the company will replace it with an identical system free. Further information on 0923-816444.

Neil Bennett on how McLaren's links with Mercedes-Benz threaten the awesome Fl

Yours for just the price of a few houses: which explains why, despite its breathtaking performance and unquestionable cachet, buyers have not exactly been blazing a trail to snap up the Fl

Has the dream supercar run out of road?

The world's most expensive production car is under threat. The McLaren Fl, the £630,000 supercar that can outperform even Formula One racers, is set to become a victim of McLaren's new association with Mercedes-Benz.

Executives at McLaren say the German manufacturer is increasingly uncomfortable that the Fl is powered by an engine from BMW, its arch-rival. That rivalry could bring production of the car, intended to continue for eight years, to a premature close.

Mercedes is said to have offered to replace the engine with one of its own. However, the BMW power unit is so integral to the car and its astonishing performance that any change would require McLaren to build an entirely new model. That still remains an option, and an Fl mark two may soon be on the drawing board at McLaren's secretive headquarters in Woking, Surrey.

An early end to production of the Fl might come as a relief to McLaren, which has struggled to persuade even the world's richest motoring fanatics to part with the large amount of cash necessary to buy one. The single statistic concerning the car that McLaren has always kept secret is the size and length of its order book. That suggests that orders for the supercar have been slow, even though production has been limited to 300 and the company can only produce 36 vehicles a year, due to capacity constraints at its carbon-fibre factory.

Whatever the fate of the Fl, it has already overturned the world of motoring design and technology. The Fl makes no compromises and takes no short cuts; as a result, its performance is breathtaking.

Derek Waelend, manufacturing director of McLaren Cars, loves to reel off the vital statistics. It accelerates from standstill to 120mph in 9.2 seconds, and between 150mph and 200mph it out-accelerates many Formula One models. Little wonder, then, that the sporting GT version has this season won all three of the races in its class, defeating even the Porsche 968s, even though McLaren has not fielded a works team and the cars are being driven by private enthusiasts.

McLaren Cars' Woking assembly plant has about as many similarities with a traditional automobile factory as a space shuttle has with a jumbo jet: Instead of a long production line manned by robots, McLaren's engineers work on just a handful cars at a time, fixing each panel by hand and fitting the engine into place.

It is easy to see just where the car's hefty price tag comes from. The engine compartment is heat-shielded by gold film throughout. Each car uses up three rolls of film, at £1,000 a roll. Most of the body parts are made from carbon fibre, which is stronger than steel but many times lighter and more expensive. This keeps the car's weight down to that of a Ford Escort.

Unit of contention: Mercedes is unhappy about the Fl being powered by a BMW engine

Into this super-light structure McLaren has shoehorned the massive BMW, 6.1-litre engine. Its V12 cylinders deliver 627 brake horsepower. That degree of muscle means the Fl does not need a turbocharger or any other compromises to boost its performance. Instead, it just delivers pure power, allowing a driver to accelerate from 30mph to 230mph in sixth gear.

Likewise, the state-of-the-art interior has been designed without any attempt at compromise. The driver sits in the centre of the car with a passenger seat either side, to give him maximum visibility and control. The engine and even the luggage compartments have been designed to be as close to the car's centre of gravity as possible, which stops it dipping as it brakes.

The aerodynamic styling means the Fl does not need any impressive-looking fins or spoilers to keep it on the ground. Instead, it is just one pure flowing line, and in its traditional silver grey colour, looks even a little dull.

It is no accident that such a car has come out of McLaren, which in the past five years has been determined to expand beyond its Formula One roots to become an all-round centre of automotive excellence.

Ron Dennis, the head of McLaren, has been roundly criticised by the racing press for allowing the performance of his team to slide while he has become distracted by other projects. On the race track, McLaren has lost the dominance it enjoyed in the 1980s and has not even won a Grand Prix for two years. This season, McLaren's challenge quickly collapsed into farce when it was discovered that Nigel Mansell, the team's new driver, could not fit into the cockpit of the new car.

Certainly the projects at McLaren have multiplied. In one part of the plant stands a full-scale model of the Maverick, McLaren's design of a jet-engined car intended to break the land speed record and the sound barrier at the same time. TAG McLaren, the parent company, now has four subsidiaries involved in marketing and high-tech electronics, as well as traditional motor racing.

However, this diversification has not dimmed the technological drive in the company. While one group of technicians mould Mansell's new seat on one side of the plant, others are busy building enough cars to last the season. With Mansell's reputation for getting through cars, McLaren knows it needs a few in reserve. Every part of the cars is machined at McLaren down to a tolerance of thousandths of an inch, in a desperate search to find a few extra miles per hour to challenge the dominance of the Renault-engined Williams and Benetton cars.

It was out of this competitive cauldron that the Fl emerged, and many of its features will undoubtedly be incorporated in future generations of cars.

Innovations from Formula One teams have trickled down into production cars for decades, and this is why Mercedes is so keen to work with McLaren. After all, its own pre-eminence in the quality car market is largely based on a history intimately linked with success on the track from early races to Formula One in the 1950s and Le Mans in the 1960s.

Lotus in gear for launch of new cars

Continued from page 1

Walkinshaw which handles the Benetton race team, Volvo's Touring Cars race team and has a big design consultancy.

The two Italians look likelier than any other group to help Lotus succeed. General Motors acquired Lotus in 1987 but seemed unable to find a role for a group tailored not just to making high-performance cars, but with an engineering division capable of high technology development for customers around the world.

Bugatti was enthusiastic but hardly big enough to support Lotus at a time when it was unable to find buyers for its own exotic £285,000 EB110 supercars. Lotus did achieve a significant financial turnaround under Bugatti, however, getting back into profit and doubling sales from 320 in 1993 to 710 last year.

Lotus needs new models to compete, particularly in America, where the bulk of all sports cars are sold. A new V8 Esprit, replacing the current turbo-charged, four-cylinder, is expected next year, with a front-engined V8 2+2 also scheduled.

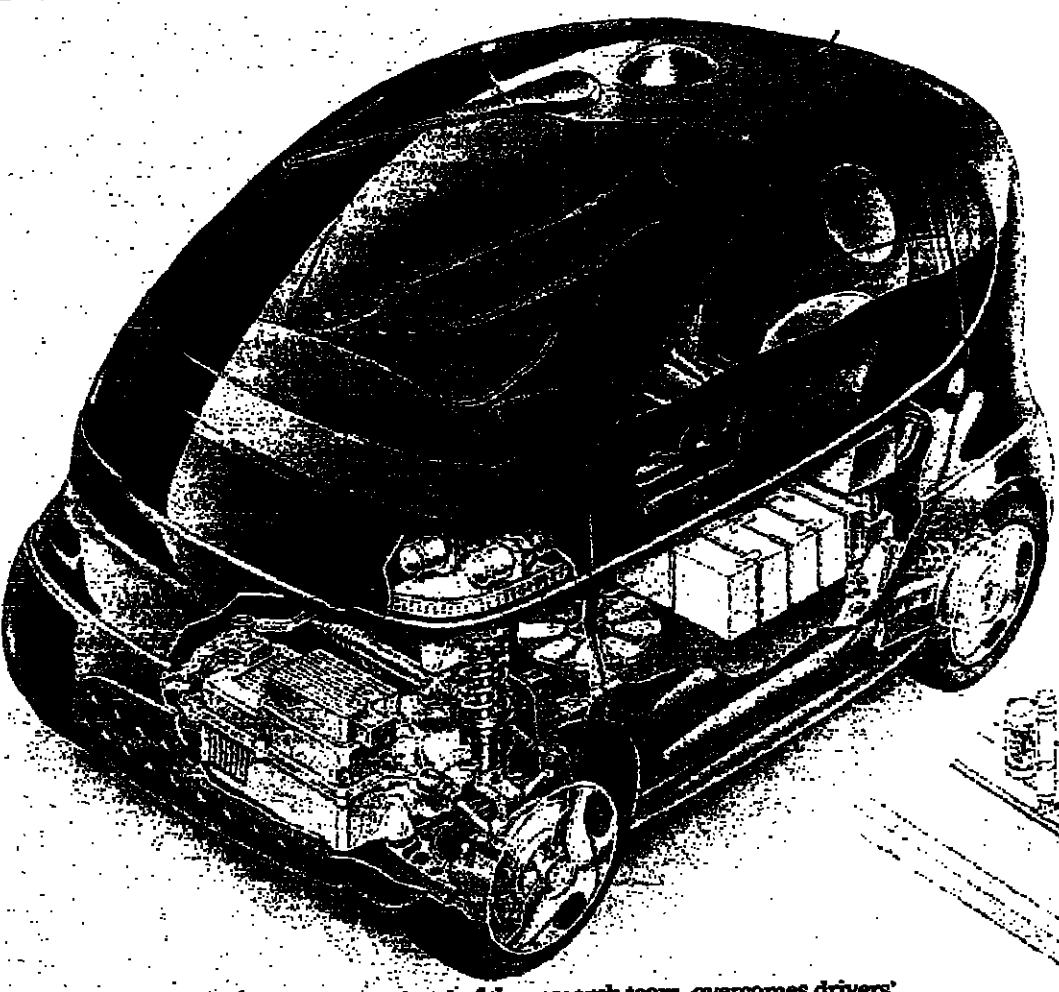
Expectations are high that Lotus can now go ahead with plans to build a new "baby" car, a part of the range sadly missed by enthusiasts unwilling or unable to pay a minimum of £46,000 for the Esprit, and with the £26,000 Elan due to run out soon.

The company wants a small, simple two-seater to echo its roots in the Lotus Seven, designed and launched by the late Colin Chapman, the firm's founder. The little car, probably mid-engined, will spearhead the next generation of sports cars from Norfolk and could be shown for the first time at next year's Geneva Motor Show.

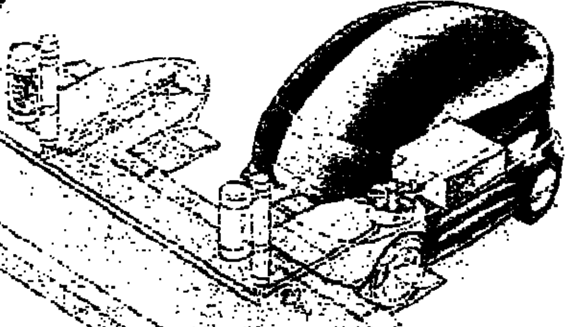
Benetton: likely to steer Lotus to greater success

This week's deal at least secures the future of Group Lotus, a company founded in 1952 as Lotus Engineering by Colin Chapman and Michael Allen. The story was one of growth and success as Lotuses won on the race track and the road models won orders from around the world.

Chapman's death, at the age of 54 in 1982, signalled the start of 13 years of turmoil, with ownership changing hands and the racing team splitting off from the cars group to become a separate entity. Throughout, though, the name has maintained its lustre and pulling power, in spite of the fact that the racing team has struggled and the stream of new road cars has dried up.



The 'magic key': as well as unlocking and activating the car, it serves as a mobile phone



Flower power: the Tulip, says the head of the research team, overcomes drivers' traditional fears of switching to battery-powered vehicles — it has a 50-60 mile range, sufficient for more than a dozen average journeys around town, and an efficient recharging system means a driver should never be left stranded by lack of power

Continued from page 1

the keypad for the car's mobile phone. Central control will give directions to the next destination, which can be updated on the move via the mobile phone.

Infra-red beacons sited at all major junctions relay information such as where there are jams, expected journey time and tourist information for visitors. The infra-red network also keeps a constant tab on the car, so users can be warned when it needs recharging.

Driving the Tulip couldn't be simpler. A lever pushed forward or backwards chooses the direction, and there are two pedals: go and stop.

When the destination is reached, the car is parked in a designated slot (central control ensures there are always enough bays free) and the car instantly begins to recharge, ready for the next user. The driver is charged only for time in the car, via a computerised monthly bill.

The cars charge themselves without cables or leads, because the parking spaces are linked to the city's power grid. As soon as a car is sited over a charging inductor, it is automatically activated. A full recharge takes four hours.

Francois Chery, the project's head of design and research, said: "The Tulip is a completely different shape for a completely different world, but I am convinced it is a complete programme, not just speculation, but based on a practical solution to the problems of town transport, and that it will be successful and positive."

M Chery: 'a different shape for a different world'

Jean Yves Helmer, director of PSA's automotive division, said: "We are deeply convinced that the solution to mobility in the city is not a fight betwen the car and public transport, but finding a way of making the two complementary.

"The car, more than ever, is a symbol of freedom, the only means of transport that is flexible, continuous and which gives a feeling of protection and security." The problem, he says, is that in cities such as London and Paris, at any one time up to half the cars on the road are not actually going anywhere but are playing hunt-the-parking-space.

"Some 75 per cent of journeys are made by car, so we must find a new solution which preserves that liberty but which improves the quality of city life."

He says the Tulip scheme is aimed at reducing the nuisance that the privately-owned car now represents in towns and cities, improving air quality, cutting noise and enhancing safety. "Tulip is the natural complement to existing public urban transport, and combines the advantages of the private car with the advantages of public transport, such as no purchase cost, no maintenance costs, and a simple system of payment."

PSA estimate that at today's prices, each Tulip car will cost the buyer — probably a local authority — the equivalent of £3,750, and each parking bay £2,500.

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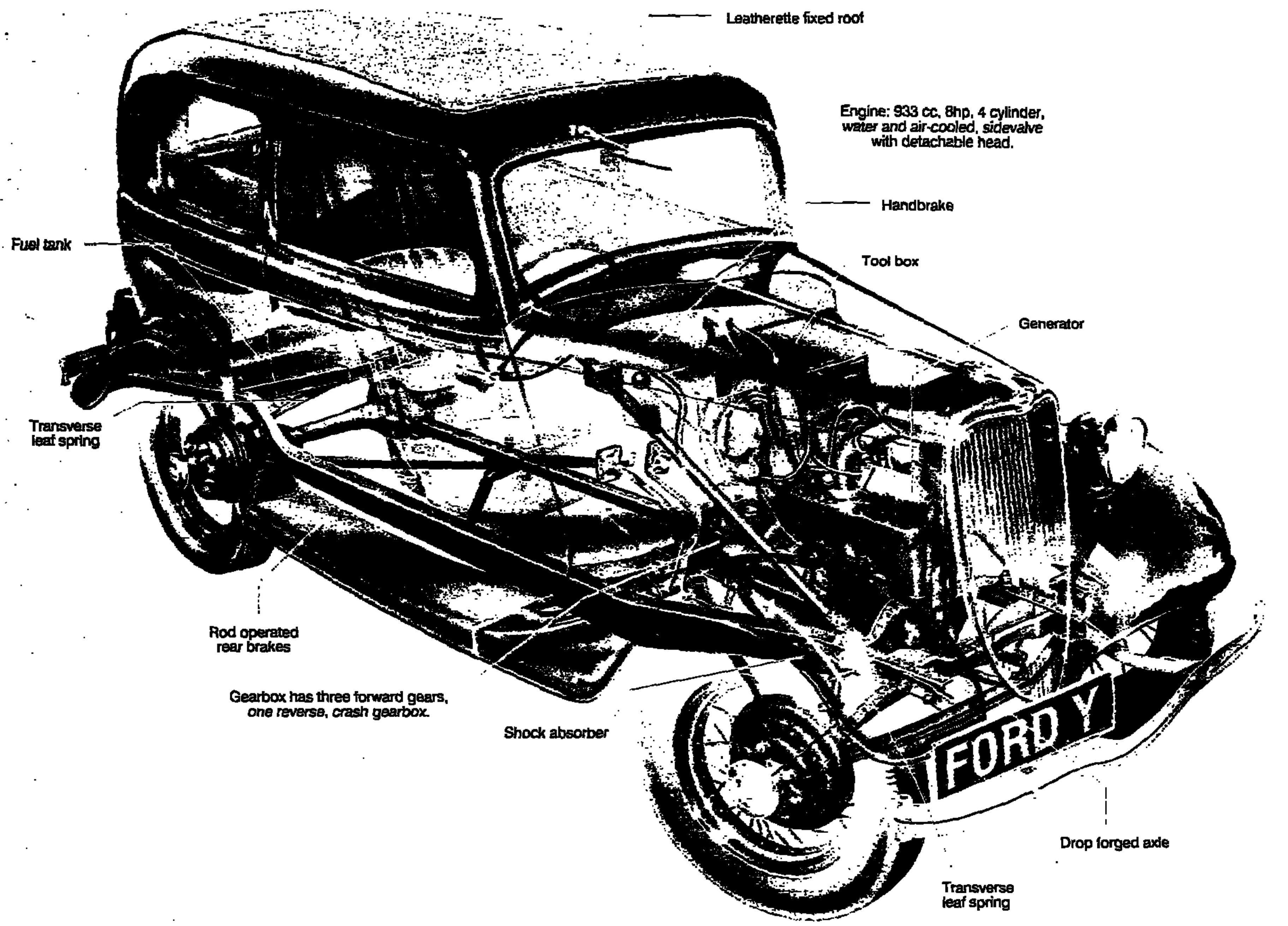
'Without the Model Y, the modern breed of world cars such as the Mondeo would never have happened'

The little gem that rescued a giant

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu

continues his series on the dozen cars that made Britain great

Cut-away illustration by JOHN LAWSON



Information supplied by Sam Roberts and Bob Wilkinson

Few economy cars have changed the course of popular motoring in Britain so dramatically as the 1932 Ford Model Y. Not only was it the first small Ford designed specifically for the overtaxed and overcrowded roads of Europe, but it actually rescued Ford of Britain from bankruptcy.

Without Model Y there would have been no Pilot, no Zephyr and no Cortina; without Ford competition to shape their actions, Austin and Morris would have developed in different directions and there might never have been a British Motor Corporation, British Leyland or Rover Group; without European input into its model programmes, Ford would have gone on producing Detroit-designed cars and the modern breed of world cars such as the Mondeo would never have happened.

> 'Its bold styling made its rivals look old-hat'

Yet the Model Y was developed in an unbelievably short time to counteract the collapse of Ford's British market during the Great Depression, when Ford of Britain's finances were stretched by the construction of Europe's biggest car factory on reclaimed marshland at Dagenham in Essex.

The first vehicle — a Model AA truck — rolled off the line at Dagenham on October 1, 1931, but there were virtually no customers for the company's private cars, which attracted prohibitively high road tax under a system which rated cars on their theoretical horsepower, irrespective of cost.

In its first three months, Dagenham — which had cost an estimated £5million to build — produced just five Model A cars and its masters in Detroit were seriously considering whether to cut their losses and close down Ford of Britain.

Sir Percival Perry, who headed the British company, appealed to his friend Henry Ford to save the firm from bankruptcy, and the Detroit giant swung into action. Starting with a clean sheet of paper in October 1932, Ford's chief engineer, Laurence Sheldrick, sketched out a simple 8hp car, which owed much to Ford's immortal Model T in its chassis layout. It had single transverse leaf springs fore and aft and a simple four-cylinder sidevalve engine with a detachable cylinder head, in this case a 933cc unit rated at 8hp.

It was clothed in a body of remarkably modern lines by Eugene Turenne Gregorie, the former yacht designer who had been employed by Ford's son Edsel to bring a smart new look to the company's products after the homespun Model T had run its course.

Aided by Roland Smith, the dynamic general manager of the Dagenham factory, and the near 70-year-old Henry Ford, Sheldrick, Gregorie and their staff toiled throughout the Christmas season, working to an impossible deadline (they were, incidentally, also working on the new Ford V8). Nevertheless, when the Ford exhibition at London's White City opened its doors on February 19, 1932, there was a prototype Model Y in pride of place. It had taken less than five months from drawing board to finished car — something today's manufacturers find hard to do in less than three years.

Autocar, which published the first pictures of the model at the end of January, welcomed it as "a very notable addition to the small car market" and the dealers were ecstatic. Priced at £120 in its basic "Tudor" model, it was more than competitive with its Austin and Morris rivals because its bold styling made them look suddenly old-fashioned.

With the Model Y, Ford introduced a concept familiar to today's industry: the "customer clinic". Dealers and the public were asked for their opinions of the new car and before it went into production in August 1932, just 11 months from the inception of the project, the design had been changed in many important respects. The body was wider and roomier, the petrol tank had been moved to the rear of the car and the shape of the radiator shell had been modified; "many other improvements had been made."

> 'The Model Y was just what the market wanted'

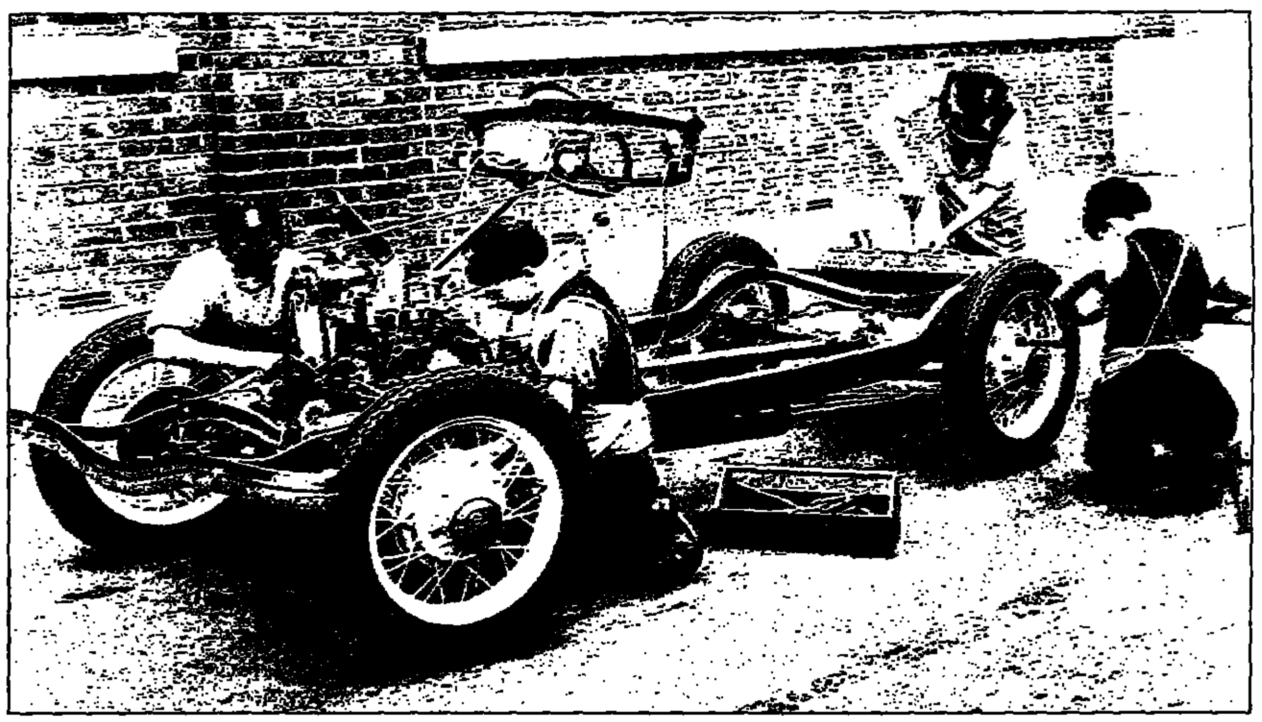
The little car was just what the market wanted, and demand soared. Despite its rapid development, there were few teething problems, apart from trouble with the back axle in mountainous districts. Fortunately, this was hardly a problem in Britain, but the little car had been designed for Europe, where dealers in the steeper regions were initially forced to rob cars in their showrooms of their final drive units to keep their customers on the road, and pray that the spares wagon arrived with a supply of uprated crown wheel and pinion sets before the display cars were sold.

During 1933, Dagenham built nearly 33,000 Model Ys, raising Ford's share of the British market to nearly 19 per cent and making the company number three in terms of sales. More importantly, it returned the British company to profit and in 1934, more than half the cars of 8hp or less sold in Britain were Model Ys.

Ford's rivals reacted quickly. Morris introduced a new Eight which was a near clone of the Ford Y, apart from having hydraulic brakes instead of the Ford's mechanical units, and Singer also produced a Model Y look-alike.

Sales of the small Ford began to slip but Perry had a masterstroke up his sleeve: by ruthless cost-cutting, he gradually reduced the price of the Model Y from £120 to £115 in December 1934, from £115 to £110 in September 1935, and finally from £110 to £100 the following month. It was the first (and only) time that a mass-produced four-seater saloon had been available at such a price, and the aptly named "Popular" doubled Ford's share of the 8hp sector. A 10hp derivative, launched in 1934, also sold well.

The basic design proved enduring: the 10hp Popular, which remained in production until 1959, was recognisably a Model Y at heart beneath a British-styled body dating from 1937, while a whole generation cut its motoring teeth on the descendants of the small Ford that saved Dagenham.



Building a winner: apprentices at Dagenham assembling a display chassis of the Ford Model Y in the mid-1930s

HOW DOES IT WORK?

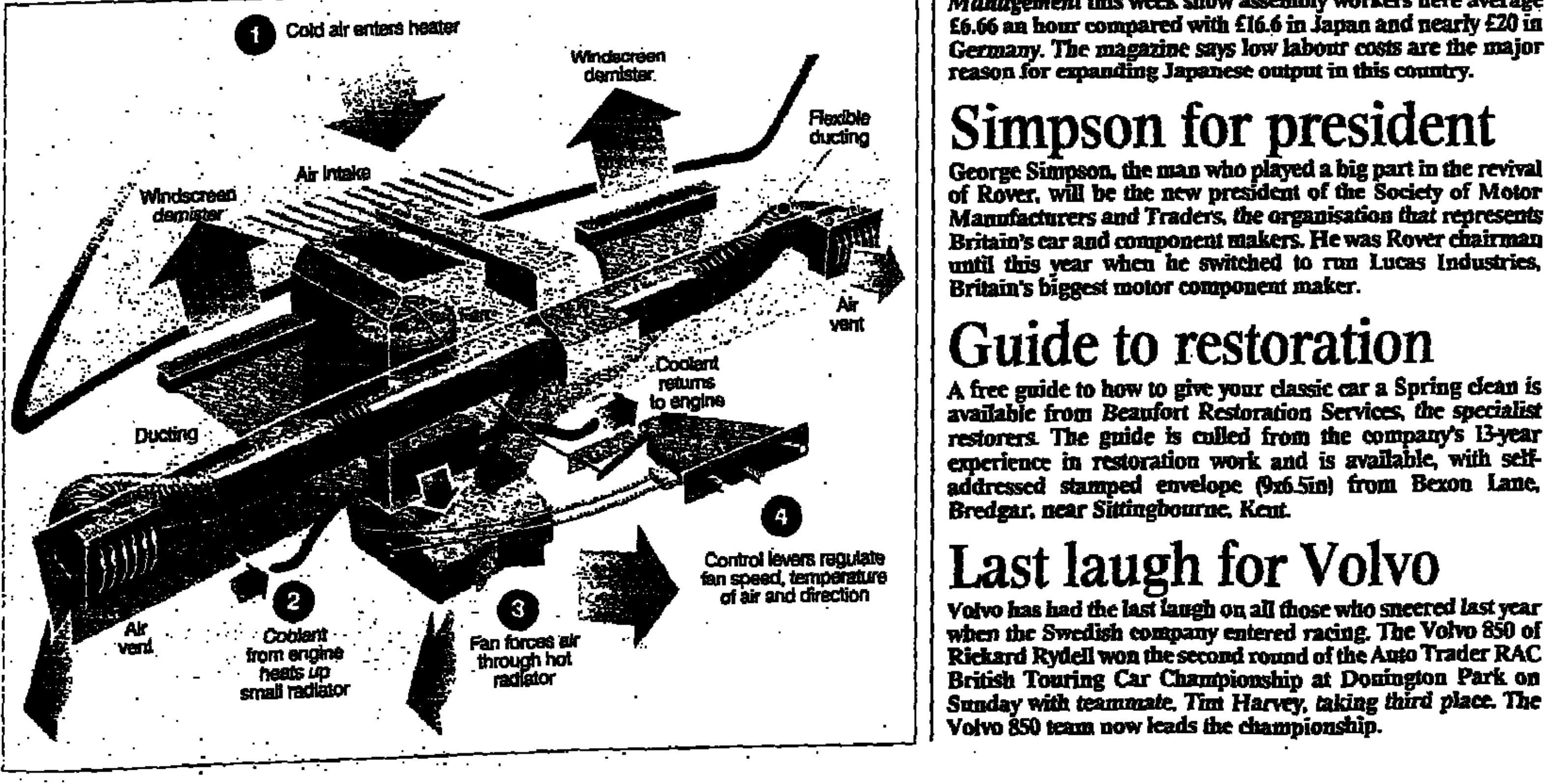
Car heating and ventilation system

A CAR heater relies on outside air forced into the engine compartment as the vehicle moves, and on coolant drawn from the radiator.

The coolant is pumped from the radiator through a small heater matrix at the rear of the engine compartment. Air rushing over the bonnet is trapped by grilles at the base of the windscreen and diverted to an air box. This is then blown into the heater box, where some of it is left cool and fresh and diverted to the vents in the car, and the rest routed over the heater core of the matrix to be warmed up.

Controls inside the car divert the air flow from the heater matrix to the demister to unfog windows. Other controls adjust the temperature of the air passing into the compartment by adjusting the ratio of cool air to heated air within the heaterbox, before it emerges from the vents. The rate at which the air passes into the cabin is controlled by the blower motor.

To prevent uncomfortable pressure building up in a car which has all its windows closed as the fresh and/or heated air comes in, vents at the back allow the air to pass to the outside again.


1 Cold air enters heater
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Air intake
Windscreen demister
Air vent
Coolant returns to engine
Ducting
4
Control levers regulate fan speed, temperature of air and direction
Air vent
2 Coolant from engine heats up small radiator
3 Fan forces air through hot radiator

NEWS SUMMARY

Diesel up a penny

Diesel prices rose by almost a penny a litre last month to make the fuel in Britain one of the most expensive in Europe. A check by the AA showed diesel up 0.9p to an average 54.3p a litre (246.7p a gallon), higher than in 14 other European nations. Only Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden and Ireland charge more. Four-star and unleaded petrol went up by 0.8p a litre, or 3.7p a gallon, with four-star averaging 60p and unleaded 54.3p. Some supermarkets held prices down though, particularly in the Midlands and South.

A yen for better pay

Car workers in Britain are paid less than half as much as their counterparts in Japan. Figures published by *Automotive Management* this week show assembly workers here average £6.66 an hour compared with £16.6 in Japan and nearly £20 in Germany. The magazine says low labour costs are the major reason for expanding Japanese output in this country.

Simpson for president

George Simpson, the man who played a big part in the revival of Rover, will be the new president of the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, the organisation that represents Britain's car and component makers. He was Rover chairman until this year when he switched to run Lucas Industries, Britain's biggest motor component maker.

Guide to restoration

A free guide to how to give your classic car a Spring clean is available from Beaufort Restoration Services, the specialist restorers. The guide is culled from the company's 13-year experience in restoration work and is available, with self-addressed stamped envelope (9x6.5in) from Bexon Lane, Bredgar, near Sittingbourne, Kent.

Last laugh for Volvo

Volvo has had the last laugh on all those who sneered last year when the Swedish company entered racing. The Volvo 850 of Rickard Rydell won the second round of the Auto Trader RAC British Touring Car Championship at Donington Park on Sunday with teammate, Tim Harvey, taking third place. The Volvo 850 team now leads the championship.

THE TIMES

Save money on the entry price to Beaulieu

History on wheels: top left, former world land speed record holders; left, Lord Montagu and the Gordon Bennett Napier

An exhibition of Lord Montagu's selection of 12 great British cars has opened at the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu – and readers are offered the chance to save money on admission.

The cars feature in a series of articles by Lord Montagu in *CAR '95* together with detailed illustrations by John Lawson.

Entry to Beaulieu also includes a chance to see the collection of 300 historic vehicles in the museum which tell the story of motoring from 1895 to the present day.

Visitors can see Palace House, the home of Lord Montagu's family since 1538, and the 13th century Beaulieu Abbey where there is an exhibition of monastic life.

Drives and rides at Beaulieu include a high-level monorail and a veteran open-top London bus.

Beaulieu is in the heart of the New Forest in Hampshire, between Bournemouth and Southampton, and is open from 10am to 6pm. Visitors to the exhibition will have the opportunity to buy prints of Lawson's illustrations, which are also still available by mail order and come with and without frames. The series continues on this page with the Model Y Ford.

The voucher below offers a £2 reduction on the full adult admission price of £7.75.

THE TIMES

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- 93L 525i A SE E.S.Roof, ABS, E.Windows, Alloys, Stereo ... 6,000 ... £23,995
- 94L M3 5 Speed, AC, E.S.Roof, A.Bag, ABS, LSDiff, Stereo ... 400 ... £42,995
- 94M M3 Coupe Hide, E.S.Roof, A.Bags, R.Spoiler, 17" Alls, Stereo ... 4,000 ... £35,995
- 94L 325i A Conv Met, Hide, ABS, Power Hood, Alloys, Alarm ... 10,000 ... £29,995
- 94L 325i Convertible 5 Speed, AC, Hide, Alloys, A.Bag, Alarm, CD 10,000 ... £29,995
- 94M 318i S Coupe Auto, E.S.Roof, ABS, A.Bag, Alloys, F.Fogs ... 19,000 ... £17,995

SPECIALIST CARS ___ *All makes taken in exchange*

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- 93L RANGE ROVER VOGUE LSE Hide AC, ABS, EAS Seat, E.S.Roof ... 13,000 ... £27,995
- 94L JEEP CHEROKEE SE 4.0 LTD Met, Hide, AC, E.Seats, ABS ... 25,000 ... £19,995
- 94M DAIMLER SIX 4.0 95 Mdl, Hide, AC, A.Bags, E.Seats, List £51,000 4,000 ... £45,995
- 94L JAGUAR XJ6 3.2 Gold Met, Regency Red, Hide, ABS, Stereo ... 3,000 ... £24,995
- 88F ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE Factory 6.3 Engine, AC, Alloys 30,000 ... £74,995
- 56 ASTON MARTIN DB2/4 FHC, Chassis No. 113, One of 3, Wire wheels .. £275,000
- 37 JAGUAR SS100 2 1/2 Litre, Restored, Chassis No [illegible] ... £94,995
- 57 JAGUAR XKSS Chassis No 766, Restored by Hall & Fowler ... £395,000
- 48 ALFA ROMEO 6C 2500 FRECCIA D'ORO Body off restoration ... £29,995
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5 County Motors
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Tel: 061 480 0831

6 Campions
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7 Castles Motor Company
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10 Warwick Wright
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17 Warwick Wright
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18 Warwick Wright
9 Abbey Road
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20 Warwick Wright
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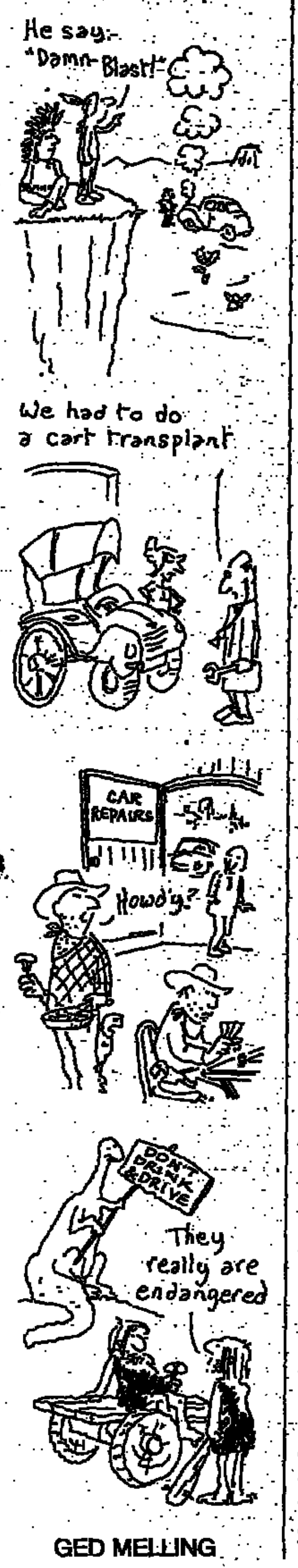


GED MELLING

Vaughan Freeman on a Government initiative to drive fraud and falsification off the road

Taxman sets sights at 'clockers' and cheats

Car tax cheats and "clockers", who swindle motorists by wiping tens of thousands of miles off a car's odometer before selling it as a fitter, more expensive vehicle, are to be targeted in sweeping changes to the way cars are registered and taxed.

It is estimated that motorists who dodge buying the £135-a-year vehicle excise duty tax disc, either in its entirety or by "month hopping" — renewing their disc more than a month after the old one has elapsed — cost the Government and honest motorists £160million a year.

Clocking, despite repeated attempts by the motor industry and trading standards authorities to eliminate it, continues as the scourge of the legitimate car trade. It is also increasingly lucrative as modern vehicles stay in good condition longer, thus giving an incentive to dishonest traders and private sellers.

The Department of Transport is now considering big changes to the way cars are registered, in particular how a car's details are recorded with the Swansea-based Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA), when it changes hands. The changes, to be introduced within three years, will mean continuous registration for the nation's 25 million cars, so that even if they are off the road, details will still be logged with the DVLA.

In future, both seller and buyer will have to sign a single change of ownership form, which it will then be the seller's responsibility to send to the DVLA. The new document will almost certainly contain details of the last recorded mileage.

The rethink will come as a huge relief to owners of classic and vintage cars, who may use their vehicles only a few days a year for club meetings or rallies, and had feared the registration overhaul would mean they would have to tax their cars year-round.

Outlining details of the changes for the first time, however, Brian Mawhinney, the Transport Secretary, assured classic car owners that such fears were unfounded. "The idea of imposing full vehicle excise duty on classic, vintage or heritage cars which are only on the roads a few days a year was just not a runner," he said.

Instead, there will be a tiered system with a nominal fee, possibly as low as £5 a year, for people who rarely use their cars. Others to benefit will include members of the armed forces serving overseas who leave cars behind; those who simply cannot afford to tax and use their cars throughout the year; and people unable to drive their vehicles through long-term illness but who still retain ownership.

Those with car collections, such as motor museums, will not need to pay at all but will be able to register their cars — a move Mr Mawhinney says will act as a deterrent to theft.

As well as discouraging clocking, it is hoped the new system of registering change of ownership will also put in order the DVLA's records. At any one time, it is estimated, at least 25 per cent of the Swansea centre's vehicle records are inaccurate or out of date.

Mr Mawhinney said: "The vast majority of motorists are honest and pay their vehicle excise duty. But some do not and we are losing £160 million annually as a result of fraud. I do not think it is acceptable to lose £160 million of taxpayer's money and that is why we are doing something about it.

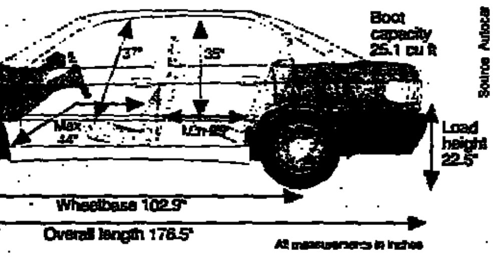
"We estimate £110 million is lost from private motorists, half from 'month-skipping'. This loophole, too, will be closed by the demand that vehicle ownership is constantly registered, and late payments will have to be backdated." He added: "We will also be considering the possibility of making it a requirement that details of the mileage are recorded."

The tax change plans have received a broadly warm welcome from motoring organisations. The AA said: "The idea of putting mileages on registration documents when vehicles change hands would be a major tool in the fight against clocking. We also welcome the idea of both buyer and seller signing the same change of ownership document."

USED CAR BRIEF

AUDI 80

The first of the so-called "slippery shape" Audis, the 80 was launched in 1986 with soft, rounded lines quite distinct from the boxier, sharper-edged car that preceded it. The first mass-produced car to use a fully galvanised steel body, the Audi 80 is happily rust resistant, and Audi were confident enough to give new cars a 10-year body-work guarantee. Audi lovers are happy to hear their favoured marque dismissed as the "poor man's BMW", since it ensures a car that is as reliable as it is Teutonically well built, is also less sought after than vehicles from BMW or Mercedes. Now replaced by the Audi A4.



GOOD NEWS: A wide variety of body shapes from cabriolets to estates, offers something for most drivers. Service intervals every 10,000 miles are longer than many cars, and later models offer five-cylinder engines, in 10-valve and 20-valve forms as well as V6 and a sophisticated diesel

SAFETY RATING: One of the safest cars on the road, both overall and in its medium sized sector, the Audi 80 is up to 30 per cent safer than most cars according to Department of Transport figures.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT): clutch assembly £200; full exhaust £250; rear damper £135 ; radiator £145; front brakepads £70; alternator £290; starter motor £130; tyre £50-£70

PRICE RANGE: Expect to pay around £3,000 for a 1988 E-reg 1.6-litre car, £5,250 for a 1990 H-reg 1.8-litre injection, £7,000 for a 1991 J-reg 2.0E injection automatic, and £7,750 for a 1991 J-reg Quattro 2.0 Sport

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1991 Audi 80 2.0E will cost a 55-year old professional male or female, with full no claims bonus, and living in Winchester, £191.68 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male or female, living in South London with one years no claims bonus, will pay £2,105 a year fully comprehensive

LOOK FOR: Power steering was introduced from 1989. Post September 1991 cars enjoy a bigger boot and also benefit from fold-down rear seats. Cars fitted with the Procon-Ten Audi safety system also worth seeking out. The system tightens seatbelts to restrain occupants and instantly pulls the steering wheel into the dashboard and away from the driver in the event of an accident

TO AVOID: The most expensive used Audis are usually sold through the franchised dealer network. It will pay to search out good quality examples through private purchase, provided the car is supported by a full service history or evidence of care and maintenance. Bodywork repairs carried out by non-franchised repairers will invalidate the 10-year bodywork warranty

OVERALL: The Audi 80 is a well-built, solid car in the medium sized sector which has proved itself both for mechanical reliability and, because of its rust-proofed construction, is particularly resilient to the elements. However, replacement parts as well as labour can prove expensive for those drivers more used to bills incurred on marques such as Ford or Vauxhall

50 BESTSELLING USED CARS

MODEL	PRICE Mar-95	PRICE Apr-95	Chge
Rover 820 Si 4dr	13895	13595	-2.16
Nissan Primera 2.0 SGX 5dr	10495	10395	-0.95
Honda Accord 2.0i LS 4dr	13195	12895	-2.27
Mazda 626 1.8 GLX 5dr	11195	10795	-3.57
Volvo 480 2.0 ES 3dr	12350	12250	-0.80
Vauxhall Cavalier 2.0 SRi 16V 5dr	10995	10750	-2.29
Ford Mondeo 2.0 Si 4dr	10750	10450	-2.79
Renault Clio 16V 3dr	10595	10450	-1.37
Citroën Xantia 1.8i SX 5dr	11095	10895	-1.80
Chrysler Wrangler 4.0 2dr	12995	12650	-2.65
Subaru Legacy 2.0 GL Est	12550	12450	-0.79
Saab 900 2.0i S 5dr	14250	13950	-2.10
Renault Espace 2.0 RN 5dr	14650	14650	0.00
Peugeot 405 GLD Est	10150	10150	0.00
Nissan 200 SX 3dr	14150	13995	-1.09
Toyota Carina E Executive 5dr	12550	12500	-0.40
Suzuki Vitara JLX SE 3dr	11150	10950	-1.79
Mitsubishi Galant 1.8 GLSi 4dr	10650	10250	-3.75
Hyundai Sonata 2.0 GLX 4dr	10695	10450	-2.29
Ford Granada 2.0 Ghia Auto 4dr	13850	13495	-2.56
Audi 80 1.6 4dr	11150	10995	-1.39
Volvo 940 2.0 Wentworth 4dr	14950	14750	-1.34
Vauxhall Cavalier V6 Diplomat 5dr	13895	13750	-1.04
Rover 620 Si 4dr	13095	12750	-2.63
Renault Safrane 2.0 RN 5dr	12495	12250	-1.96
Peugeot 605 SLi 4dr	12495	12150	-2.76
Nissan Serena 2.0 SLX 7st Est	13595	13495	-0.74
Audi 80 2.0 E 4dr	12695	12550	-1.14
Citroën 2.0 ZX 16V 3dr	10550	10595	0.43
Daihatsu Sportrak ELXi 3dr	12295	12095	-1.63
Ford Escort RS 2000 3dr	12550	12195	-2.83
Honda Civic ESi 3dr	10395	10150	-2.36
Mitsubishi Lancer GLXi 5dr	10450	10350	-0.96
Peugeot 306 XSi 5dr	11550	11150	-3.46
Toyota Corolla 1.6 Executive 5dr	11995	11795	-1.67
Vauxhall Astra 2.0i Convertible	11695	11695	0.00
Volkswagen Passat 2.0 GL 4dr	13150	12795	-2.70
Mazda 323 1.6 GLX (SR) 5dr	10395	10395	0.00
Renault 19 16V 3dr	10595	10495	-0.95
Subaru Impreza 1.8 GL Est	11150	11150	0.00
Vauxhall Calibra 16V 3dr	14495	14095	-2.76
Vauxhall Carlton 2.0 CDXi Auto 4dr	14895	14650	-1.65
Citroën XM 2.0i Est	14195	14150	-0.32
Daihatsu Fourtrak TDL 3dr	14295	14450	1.08
Ford Escort 1.8 Ghia TD Est	10495	10495	0.00
Honda Accord 2.0i LS Coupé 2dr	14495	14195	-2.07
Audi 100 2.0 E 4dr	14250	14095	-1.09
Mazda Xedos 6 1.6i 4dr	14195	14195	0.00
Mitsubishi V6 24V Coupé 5dr	14450	13850	-4.16
Rover 216 Cabriolet 2dr	12895	12795	-0.78

CAP NATIONWIDE MOTOR RESEARCH LTD

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on L-reg low mileage cars Figures supplied by ***CAP Nationwide Motor Research.***

PROTON has been first to react to the sales assault on Britain by Daewoo. The South Korean newcomer opened for business this week with a package of offers — including giving away 1,000 cars in August — which rocked rivals, such as Skoda, Lada, Proton and Kia.

Proton has hit back by launching a model at the same price as the company charged in 1989 when the Malaysian firm started up here. The 1.3-litre Special is going into showrooms at £5,990 but could be available on finance for as little as £65 a month. The price will be held until the end of June.

To counter Daewoo's offer of three-year warranties and free servicing, Proton is continuing its offer of two years' free servicing and also gives free RAC membership for three years plus a new insurance deal which could offer fully comprehensive cover for £99.

Proton led the "new wave" of Far Eastern manufacturers into Britain six years ago when its Mitsubishi-based saloons won widespread acclaim for cheapness allied to an impressive build quality.

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308 GTB 82 red / magnolia AC 22,000 mls FSH pristine £28,995 Priory 0181 763 1919

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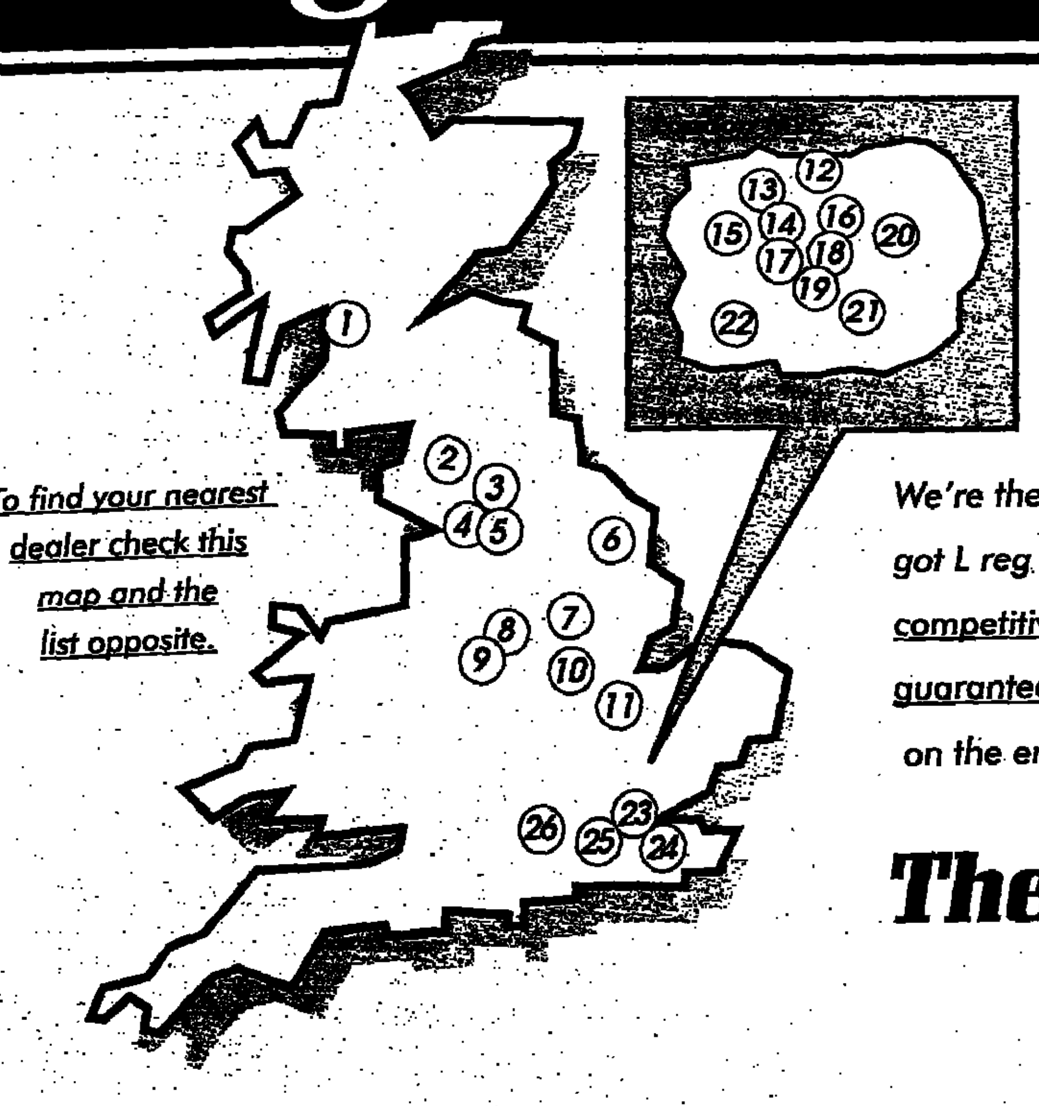

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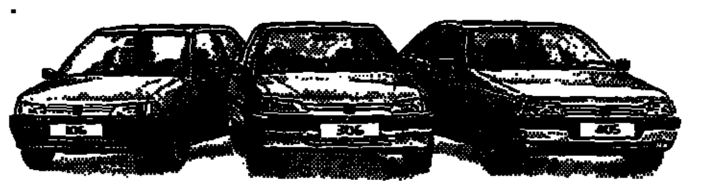

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PEUGEOT

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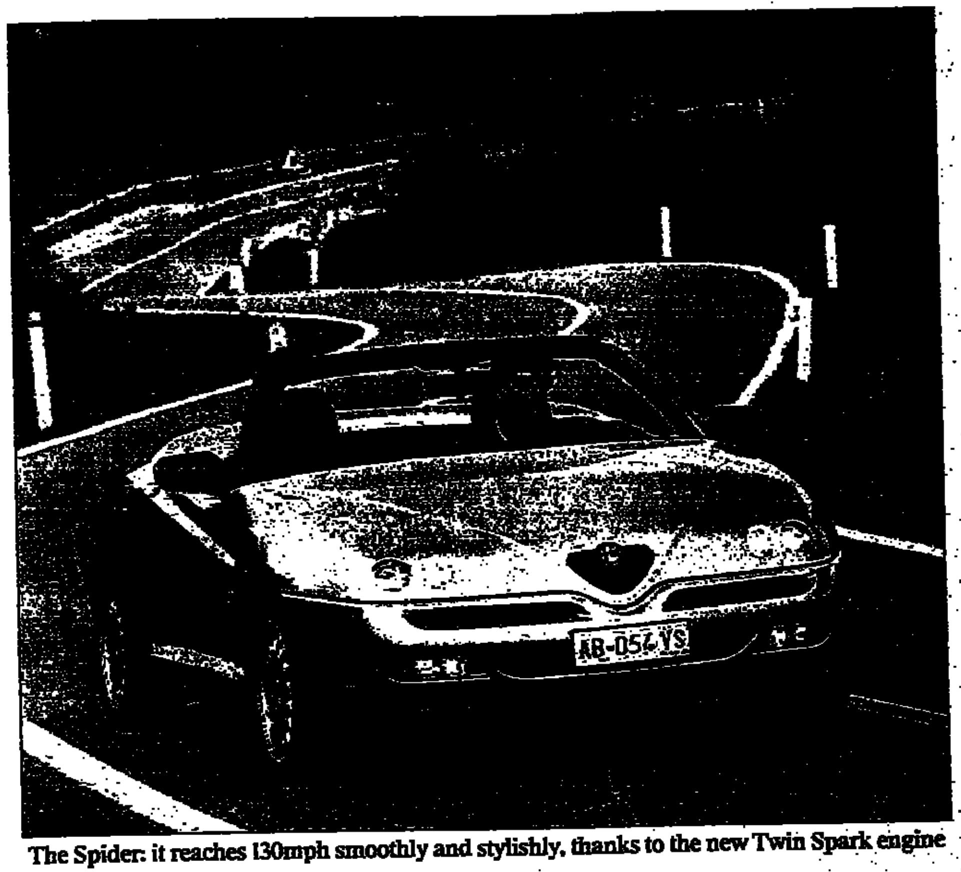
Michael Scarlett celebrates the triumphant return to sporting excellence of a classic Italian marque

The GTV: a 2+2 coupé that is an offshoot of the Fiat Tipo, but with special Alfa touches



The Spider: it reaches 130mph smoothly and stylishly, thanks to the new Twin Spark engine

Alfa weaves a winner with its silky Spider

Alfa Romeo is one of motoring's great names, thanks to a history of some fine sporting cars and racing glory. Too many of its latter-day cars, though, have been flawed in the very aspects in which an Alfa was supposed to shine — not least handling.

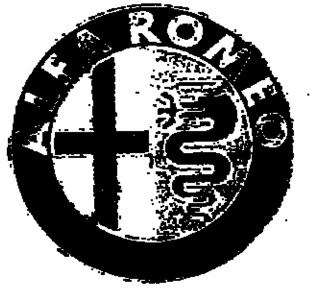
Enthusiasts feared the worst when Fiat took over in 1986 and sales have reflected this — British sales fell from 4,348 in 1990 to 1,784 in 1994. So when one finds an Alfa sports car that does all the right things, the enthusiast in one looks up.

Fiat is a master of making the most of a common design. The Alfa GTV (2+2 coupé) and Spider (two-seater open roadster) are yet more offshoots of the Fiat Tipo hatchback and its family of Fiat/Lancia/Alfa descendants.

The GTV/Spider model likely to sell best has a 2-litre variant of Fiat's new modular engine, a family of up-to-date power units in four and five-cylinder versions which will eventually span from 1.4 to 2.4 litres. The cylinder head is not standard Fiat. It has two previous Alfa engine features: variable timing of the inlet valves and two spark plugs per cylinder — hence the name, Twin Spark.

Alfa's previous Twin Spark 2-litre, still found in the 155 and 164, is powerful but rough. The new Twin Spark, helped by Lanchester-type balancer shafts to reduce engine vibration, is a vast improvement. It turns out 150bhp (five more than the old Twin Spark) at 6,200rpm, and 137lb ft of torque at 4,000rpm — but never less than 85 per cent of that between 2,000 and 6,300rpm.

The result in these two 1.35-ton Alfas is excellent performance: top speeds of 130mph in the Spider, 134mph in the GTV, and 0-60mph in around 9 seconds. This is delivered with wonderful smoothness and just the right amount of sports-car noise — characterful but not too noisy.



The red line on the rev counter is at 7,000 rpm, backed up by an automatic rev-limiter at 7,300rpm — which, because the engine is so smooth, you really need.

The Twin Spark is beautifully flexible, which means that although the gear change is excellent and the engine marvellously willing to rev responsively, if you're feeling lazy, you don't need to change gear that much.

Sports cars are traditionally rear-wheel-driven. For some time, though, Alfas have been front-wheel-drive, with cross-wise engines, as are the GTV and Spider, using a suitably geared Fiat transmission. It is not easy to make powerful front-drive cars handle well.

Although the front suspension is fairly ordinary and typical of the Tipo family, with coil-sprung struts, the rear is special for Alfa, with a well-engineered double wishbone arrangement. Alfa admits it had at least one role model in its handling target for the cars — the Lotus Elan, which although no commercial success, set peak standards for front-drive handling.

The GTV Twin Spark, in particular, equals the Elan in the way it steers, grips the road, delivers the power and brakes, but beats it in its unobtrusively power-assisted steering, with much better feel of the road. The Spider is strong and stiff by open car standards, but not quite as crisply precise as the GTV, and it has a noticeable amount of shaking of the fascia and steering column on a bumpy road. Put all this in a strikingly styled body by Pininfarina and you have something special. The two cars are differently distinctive, with heavily sculpted, chunky lines you cannot ignore.

The Spider's hood is fairly easy to erect and a power hood is an option. When up, there is some wind roar at speed but much less than is usual in soft-tops. Inside, the instruments sit within deep cowls. At night, the dials are figured in green, with red needles. There is a small amount — not quite enough for tall drivers — of steering wheel adjustment, both lengthways and in rake, and the seats are well shaped to give sideways support, which is important in a sporting car. The boot is surprisingly small, as if this was a mid-engined car.

The Continent is offered two other engines: either Alfa's 3-litre V6 in the Spider, or a similar power turbo 2-litre V6 in the GTV; here we will get only the Twin Spark 2-litre.

Right-hand-drive British market versions are still a year away, but the fact that there is a top-class modern Alfa in the offing is extremely cheering.

DR DASHBOARD

Who should service my car?

Q **I'm thinking of buying a new car, but I'm worried about the cost of servicing. Must I get it done by an official dealer?**

A If your car is under warranty, the answer is almost certainly Yes. Most makers say their warranty is valid only if the car is serviced at the correct intervals by an authorised dealer.

Q **But isn't that very expensive?**

A If you are still looking for a car, study the advertisements carefully. Competition between makers is tough and a lot of cars now come with free servicing for up to three years. Even if you can't find such an offer, any franchised dealer should be able to quote you an exact price for a regular service.

Q **What about fitting accessories?**

A If the fitting involves any change to the car's electrics, running gear or bodywork, then again it's best to stick to a dealer who holds the maker's franchise — even something which sounds perfectly sensible and simple and is recommended by your insurance company, such as fitting an immobiliser, can invalidate a warranty if it is not approved by the manufacturer.

Q **What if I purchase a nearly-new car?**

A A lot of the best buys will still come from franchised dealers and carry manufacturer's warranties, such as those sold under Vauxhall's Network Q or Ford's Direct scheme. Even Rolls-Royce (covering cars up to 17 years old!) and Jaguar have similar schemes.

Q **So the franchised dealers have got us all over a barrel?**

A According to the latest Lex report on motoring there is a shift towards franchise dealers and away from do-it-yourself and non-franchise servicing. In 1994 a third of all motorists used franchised dealers, 28 per cent a local workshop or garage and 21 per cent did it themselves. This shift is not really surprising. It reflects the greater sophistication of modern vehicles and the greater degree of specialised knowledge needed to service them.

Q **So is there any point in staying loyal to a small garage?**

A So long as you are not risking the loss of a warranty, there is every reason to stick with a winner. Most people who go to small garages do so by recommendation or because they get a personal service. Many small garages are also happy to pick up and deliver cars, although it is important to check that they are properly insured to do this. Small garages are especially popular among women drivers, those who have small cars and those who drive older cars. In the case of older models, even of popular makes, mechanics at small garages may know more about them than someone at a franchise who has trained on more recent models.

Q **Should I keep all the paperwork regarding services?**

A It's a very good idea. A full service history from a reputable garage, franchised or not, is a strong selling point for a second-hand car.

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190E Auto. 1992 K. white/blue int, c/w, s/roof, main dealer FSH, 56k, immaculate cond £11,600 01733 330438.

200 E 16V Auto. 1993. Met blue, grey cloth sts, s/roof, e/windows, abs, air bag, stereo, 1 own. 9K. fsh (mb). £17,995 tel 01233 891216. (Camb)T

200E Auto. 1990H. FSH. White/grey cloth. Alloys. 69,000 miles. £11,995. 01900 85367

500SEL

Met. dark silver, lthr int, air cond, elec seats, lumber panel & roof, p/plate, FSH, chauffeur maintained, superb condition.

£8,950

01403 273518.

95 SL320 Tourmaline/ Cream hide, Air con, C/C, [illegible] Hist price £66,700 Available for £60,950

95 E220 Est White Auto. Many extras 7,000ms. Only £36,950

95 C180 Elg Auto S/r, Alloys etc 2,400ms. £22,500

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01283 762762

200T Auto 87 Mod. A/c. E/seats, 1 owner. FSH. 73,000 miles £7,950. 0181 878 8294

230 CE Jan 89 FSH Smoke silver Full leather C/cont. Alloys Wash wipe 58K £14,950 h 081 296 8838 m 0956 280712

230 Coupe 1988 Auto. 49,800 mi. FMBSH. Blue/black met. beige int. ABS. CC. EW. ESR. HWW HR. AW. R/C. Outstanding £8,950. 01277 216943.

280E Auto. almandine/soft cream lthr, 8 hole alloys, walnut, CD, RHR, ABS, ESR, EW, lthr wheel & gear knob, centre a/rest. 91 H, 41k. £17,995. 01277 364605

280 TE (Estate). 92 J. auto. blue/blk met, air bag, ESC, arm rest, outside temp. gauge, 1 lady driver, 30k. FSH. Immac. £19,950. 01569 730463.

280E Auto 89 G Pearl Grey / black cloth 63k FMBSH 1 lady own £12,950 01995 640373

300 SE 90 G Reg. Nautic blue. Cream hide. A/C. Alloys. FSH Taxed. MOT. Immaculate £18,750 Tel 0181 642 7944

300 CE Auto 88F 29K mls MBFSH ABS Alloys ESR EW Alm CD Nautic Immac £20,350 01278 342021 (h) 343729 (o)

300TE auto '89. pearl grey. 58,000 miles. FSH. elec seats. CD. 8 hole alloys. £16,950. 01252 513912 or 0836 626711

MERCEDES 500SL

1992, Jreg, Silver with Grey leather interior. Options include AC, Heated seats, 8 hole alloy wheels, 58,000km, LHD, Immaculate condition. £39,250. 0374 703829/0171 235 4849

Serious enquiries only

300CE 91J Nautic blue/grey hide, Walnut wood, Walnut console box, fvm. 1 onr. 45K £28,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

300CE Automatic. 1990. White. blue leather. AMG spoiler/grill. 28,000 miles. lady owner. FSH. £22,950. 01628 530300

300E 24V. J reg. 12/91. 5Th. Auto sports box. Blue/blue hide. sports suspension, alloys. cruise, ESR + windows, spoiler. immac. 1 owner. FSH. £20,450 01703 629900 Day 01703 472849 Eves. No canvassers

300 E 24 V. H Reg Dochstein Body kit. Pale blue/ Cream hide. A/C. All extras. FSH £19,750 Tel 01376 861654

300 SL 93 L. brilliant silver met. black lthr. rear seat. 8 hole alloys, headlamp wash wipe, memory drivers seat, radio cass & CD. 1 own, FSH, 10k mls. £48,950. 01942 717373 / 0850 845500 (eves) t

300 SL 89 F reg. Diamond Blue met. cream lthr, rear seat. cruise control. outside temp gauge. radio cass. alarm. 1 own. FSH. 22k mls. £26,950. 01942 717373 / 0850 845500 (eves) t

300 SE J. air con. grey metallic. grey cloth. FMBSH . Sunningdale, very particular non smoking owner. totally pristine. first to view will buy. £19,500. 0276 63471.

E220 Auto. 94 L. roof. alloys. t/air bags. 9,000 mls, FSH. £21,950. 01203 382387 t

FREE CAR SEARCH

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Tel: 0171 635 7500

300 SL 24v 92 K. Signal red. cream lthr. rear seat. 8 hole alloys, radio cass. 1 own. FSH £49,950. 01942 717373 / 0850 845500 (eves) t

300 SL 24V. 1992 K Reg. 6k miles. FSH. Air con. Leather. £47,999 Usual Dealer Facilities. Motorhouse of Cannock. Open 7 Days 01543 506060

300SL 92J Midnight Blue /Mushroom hide 8h C/coded C/c blww air 34K £42,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

300SE 94L Almandine/ Mushroom hide. c/c. c/c. 8 holes. dca. r/stereo. 8K £44,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

300SL (86) White. Black hide. Rear seat. Air cond. Alloys. 33,000 miles. Exceptional. £19,950. Tel 01772 613114 (T)

300SL 24V. Dec 91 J. Signal red/cream lthr, 14k. air. r seats, air bag. FSH. CD. immac £43,950 0322 865225 No trade

300 SL 24V J reg Met blue, crm lthr. Rear seat. 8 hole. FMBSH. CC. AC. ES. Air bags. CD. 30k Mint. £45,750. 0181 802 1921.

300 TE ESTATE 91H Silver. Cream cloth. 7 Seats. Radio. S/roof. 1 Owner. S/History. 64K mls. Excellent condition. £17,150. Tel: 01244 350 278.

E280 1994. Silver. 8k miles. As new. high spec. £26,995. 0141-637 9464 / 0836 444228.T

E280

93L metallic, Almandine, 8 hole alloys, esr, em, RHR, elec drivers seat, cruise, walnut, alarm, Alpine HiFi + CD. 16,500 miles. £28,000 ono 01795 662762

320 SL M Reg. Metallic Silver/Leather, CD, Alloys. 1k miles. Superb Value at £59,999 Usual Dealer Facilities. Motorhouse of Cannock. Open 7 Days 01543 506060

320TE 93K Silver/grey cloth. a/c. 8 hole alloys. Walnut. blww, 1 owner. 26k £32,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

380 SE 1986 (D) Blue, air, ABS. cruise, alloys, s/roof, FSH, minor from new. £6,995 ono 081 968 6829 H/071 467 4010 O

380 SEL Auto Champagne Gold/Velour. 85 C Reg. 1 Owner Since 8 Weeks Old. FSH. 88,000 miles. This Car Must Be Seen £10,995 01685 875677/01685 874949 T

420 SE Auto. White with blue int. First reg. 22/9/88. Taxed and MOT Aug 95. 78,265 mls. 1 Owner. FSH. Immac. £12,000. Tel: 01562 777803/ 01562 60738.

450 SLC Auto. 1981. Own plate. Air con. & all extras. Green met. Green int. (cloth) £6,750 o.n.o. Tel: 01562 777803/ 01562 60738

450SL 80V. Inca Red. Rear seat. 2 owners. Exceptional Example. 31K miles £14,950. 01491 578688 or 0836 268214.T

450 SLC '80. metallic silver/velour. every extra. immaculate. Bargain. 01758 860311/ 0836 562999

E 200 T

95 M Auto

Tourmaline Met / Mushroom cloth. Sunroof. Electric rear windows. Walnut. Alarm. CD. Armrest. Alloys. 3,000 miles.

£26,750

01803 325786

500 SEC 87 Diamond blue FMBSH. Duchatelet wheels 87,000 mls. £11,950 01271 320112 h 01271 826700 w

500 SL 1990 H Blue / Black-Grey leather. Very high spec. Rear seats. 45,000 mls. FSH. £45,000 ono 01706 485386

500 SL 1986. 52K miles. White. Navy int. FSH. Pristine Condition. £17,500 ono (o) 0181 954 7636 (h) 0181 968 4061

500SE 90G Blue blk/gry hide. a/c. air. c/c. Elec mem sts. ent. crb. exit lights. 2 horns. hw's. Factory alms. R/ster. Only 13K. Superb £29,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

500SEL 92 Smoke. Lthr. usual h.spec & alloys. 29T. £30,900 Main MB dlr facilities. Telephone Pentagon 01934 641616 (Sun 0374 638586)

500SL 93K. Black/ Mushroom hide, Air con. Plus much more spec. 24K miles £58,950. 01491 578688 or 0836 268214.T

500SL 91J Brilliant Silver/ Blue hide, Climate control. C/C. 8-hole alloys. ESC. 17K £55,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

500SL 91H Pearl Blue/ Grey hide A/t C/c E/seats. Mem sts ASR R/stereo 36K £49,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

MERCEDES E220

Cabrio 94M. Auto. Almandine red, mushroom leather. Infra red locks, alarm, alloys etc. Only 2,000 miles.

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600 SL 91 H. Almandine. cream leather. Rear seats. CD. Lots of extras. 12,000 miles. £61,000. Tel. 01664 840304

190 2.5 Diesel Auto. 92K. 1onr. FMBSH, 14k. ABS. alarm. alloys, asr. MB-Tecs. walnut. e/w, £17,995 Tel Windsors (Wallasey) Ltd 0151 639 6181. Open: Sat 9-5.30; Sun 2-4.30

1995M C200 Sport. Azurite blue, black leather, climate control. elec seats x 2. heated seats. mid. divided rear seat. head lamp wash wipe. otg. ski/flap. CD MB sound system. 5 speed. 600 miles. £31,995 Phone 0296 21362. 0885 930795

BRABUS C2 Saloon. 1991. Midnight Blue/magnolia hide super blue. a/cond. CD. cost new £67,000. 26,000mls. £29,995. Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

C220 Elegance auto. '94 M. high spec. malachite. crm lthr int. ESR/aerial. EW. 3,500 mls. As new. £24,500. 01782 344081

C180 ELEGANCE Auto 94 M. Metallic blue black/Grey. 10,000 miles. ew. esr. ABS. airbag. £19,995. 061 439 7082

C180 ESPRIT 94 M. Black, twin air bags. adjustable column. RHR. MB stereo and alarm. 7,000 miles. £18,600 ono 0983 298006 Private sale

S280 93L Pearl blue. sunroof. alloys. 9,000mls only £36,995. Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

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£8000 ono

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G 220 Sport Auto 94 (L) A/Con. ESR Alarm. 1 Owner. 14K Miles. FMBSH £25,995 Tel 0117 9250438 Day / Wdays

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E220 Coupe 1994. Nautical Blue. 15k miles. MBSH. £29,995 Telephone 0141-637 9464 / 0836 444228.T

ESTATE 200T. 86 C reg. Wlnut S'rf. C'tlg. PAS. E'lev. E mirr. Blaupkt. tints. Dog grd.(79 K). FSH. MOT. TAX. Immac. Tel 01983 721684 £4,975 ono

S500 Coupe 1994 Pearl Blue/ Navy hide. 8 hole alloys, stack CD. 10,000mls. £67,995. Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

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E300 24-VALVE DIESEL Auto. May 94L. cream leather. walnut dash. imperial red. twin airbags. alloys. R/H/R. 10,000 miles only. Immac. cond £26,500ono. 0151 722 1201

SL280 94L Blue black/ Grey hide. 8-hole alloys. Radio/Stereo. 27K £46,995 Bramshaw 0202 396342

S280 93L Nautic Blue/Mushroom Leather. Air Con. CC. ESR. E/Srcn. 8 Hole Alloys. 49,000 miles. £36,999 01634 840204 T

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94M	C180 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	6T	£21,450	94M	E200	Azurite Blue	11T	£22,450
94L	C180 Eleg	Pearl Blue	10T	£20,850	92J	230E	Pearl Grey	47T	£19,450
94L	C180 Eleg	Imperial Red	10T	£20,850	94M	E220	Dark Blue	10T	£25,750
94L	C180 Eleg	Blue Black	10T	£20,950	93L	E320C	Pearl Blue	21T	£36,950
94L	C180 Eleg	Polar White	11T	£21,250	94M	E200T	Polar White	11T	£24,500
94L	C180 Eleg	Smoke Silver	13T	£21,250	94M	E200T	Imperial Red	9T	£25,250
94M	C200 Eleg	Polar White	10T	£22,950	94M	E200T	Almandine Red	10T	£25,250
94L	C200 Eleg	Pearl Blue	6T	£22,950	92K	220TE	Arctic White	34T	£19,950
93L	C220 Eleg	Pearl Blue	21T	£24,850	94M	E300TD	Brilliant Silver	7T	£31,250
94M	C220 Eleg	Imperial Red	11T	£24,750	92K	300GES	Arctic White	22T	£23,950
94M	C220 Eleg	Black	5T	£25,650	94L	SL280	Imperial Red,HiSpec	12T	£52,950
94M	C220 Sport	Brilliant Silver	9T	£27,950	89G	420SL	Nautic Blue	45T	£29,950
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94M	C250D Class	Smoke Silver	8T	£22,250	94L	S280	Rosewood, AC	8T	£41,250
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94L	C180 Eleg	Imperial Red	11T	£19,950	94M	E200	Brilliant Silver	11T	£22,950
94M	C180 Eleg	Blue Black	13T	£21,500	94M	E200	Azurite Blue	9T	£23,250
94M	C180 Sport	Almandine	10T	£20,950	94M	E200 Est	Brilliant Silver	8T	£25,450
94M	C200 Eleg	Azurite Blue	10T	£23,250	94L	E200 Est	Dark Blue	16T	£24,950
94M	C200 Eleg	Polar White	7T	£23,250	94M	E200 Est	Brilliant Silver	16T	£25,450
94M	C200 Sport	Brilliant Silver	12T	£23,950	94M	E200 Est	Smoke Silver	9T	£25,450
94L	C220 Class	Dark Blue	13T	£22,950	94L	E220	Blue Black	6T	£24,950
94M	C220 Eleg	Imperial Red	24T	£11,500	93L	E220	Black	17T	£23,950
94L	C220 Sport	Brilliant Silver	5T	£26,250	94L	E220 Est	Blue Black	17T	£26,450
94M	C220D Class	Black	12T	£19,950	94M	E250D	Imperial Red	14T	£24,950
94M	C250D Eleg	Blue Black	12T	£24,750	94M	E300D	Smoke Silver	4T	£27,450
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93L	200E	Rosewood	14T	£20,950	94M	E320 Est	Almandine	16T	£39,950
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94M	E200	Dark Blue	14T	£22,950	91J	420SEL	Blue Black	63T	£23,950
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94M	C200 Eleg	Brilliant Silver	13T	£22,950	94M	E300D	Azurite Blue	8T	£27,350
94M	C200 Eleg	Blue Black	11T	£22,950	93L	E320	Brilliant Silver	14T	£33,950
94M	C200 Eleg	Onyx Grey	10T	£22,950	94L	E200T	Imperial Red	12T	£22,950
94M	C200 Sport	Blue Black	17T	£24,450	94M	E200T	Azurite Blue	7T	£24,250
94M	C220 Eleg	Polar White	16T	£23,950	93L	E280T	Pearl Blue	24T	£31,950
93L	C220 Eleg	Rosewood	20T	£26,850	93K	320TE	Pearl Grey	29T	£34,995
92K	190E 1.8	Dark Blue	17T	£14,950	92J	230CE	Barolo Red	34T	£24,450
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92K 220E Auto Met Nobile, Cream Sport Cloth, 29T £21,950
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93L 300D Auto Arctic White, Black Cloth, 8T £24,995
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94L E300D B/Black 17T £25,995
94L E250D White, MV 10T £25,995
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94M C220 Blue (Auto) 9T £23,995
94K C220 Onyx (Auto) 13T £23,995
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92J 230E Auto Met, esr ... 21T £16,950
92K 230E Auto Met, sw, esr, ews ... 18T £19,950
93K 230E Auto Met, ew, 8 h/alloys ... 31T £20,950
94L E200 Auto esr v, ews, far ... 12T £21,950
94M E200 Auto Met, esr ... 8T £22,950
94L E220 Auto Met, 3 x Airbags ... 9T £22,950
94L E220 Auto Met, 2 x airbags ... 11T £22,950
94M E220 Auto ew, esr ... 11T £27,950

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92K 260E Met, 8 h/alloys, ew ... 28T £22,950
94M E320 Met, hide, ets ... 1T £36,950
92K 230TE Auto Met, a.c. rs ... 14T £24,950
94M E280T Met ... 10T £33,950
94L E220C Auto Met ... 12T £29,950
94L E220 Cab Auto Met ... 14T £38,950
91H 300CE 24v Met, hide, a.c. ers ... 27T £28,950
91H 300CE 24v Met, hide, sportline 29T £28,950
93K 320CE Met, a.c. ers, 8 h/as ... 34T £34,950
94L E320C Met, hide, 8 h/alloys ... 5T £41,950
94L S280 Met, hide, clim, 8 h/alloys ... 14T £41,950
91J 500SE Met, hide, 8 h/alloys ... 41T £42,950
94L SL320 Met, hide, a.c. h/alloys . 16T £57,950
90H 500SL Full Spec ... 33T £48,950

[illegible] SAT-SUN 10-4pm

GREENOAKS

94M E36 AMG Coupe Silver, Leather, A/Con, E/Seat ... 1T £51,950
93K 500SL Pearl Blue, Leather, A/C, R/Seat, 8H Alloys ... 24T £58,950
94L SL280 Blue Black, Exclusive Leather, Rear Seat, 8 Hole Alloys ... 2T £52,450
95M E280 Estate Azurite, Leather, Sportline, R/Seat, 5 Sp, Auto, Stereo ... 5T £37,950
94L S280 Silver, Face-Lift Model, ESR, EBC, HLWW, 8H Alloys ... 18T £39,950
91H 230CE Arctic, Auto, A/C, ED/Seat, OTG, RHR, NAL ... 32T £25,450
88C 300TE Diamond Blue R/Seat, Auto, EFW, MSR, A/C ... 65T £ 8,995
92J 230TE Blue Black, Auto, RFS, ESR, EW, Stereo ... 46T £20,450
94M C250D Elegance Silver, Automatic Stereo ... 6T £24,950
94L C220 Elegance Blue Black, Auto, RHR, OTG, Stereo ... 26T £22,950
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C220 Esprit 94L ... £239.00pcm*
ESR, Bodykit, Alloys, Immob, R/Cass 21T £22,495
C280 Elegance 94L
Blue black, Cream Leather ... £31,950
190E 94L ... £2[illegible].00pcm*
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C250 (94) Midnight, Auto ... £19,950
300TE (K) Auto, 22,000m ... £16,950
E280 (M) Estate Rear Seat .. £25,950
E200 (M) White, Auto, Sunroof £20,950
220CE (93) White, Air Con ... £26,950
600SL (93) Nautic, Cream Lthr £67,950

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93K 300 Coupe 24V Auto, Almandine Metallic, Cream Leather, Electric Sunroof, Electric Windows, Air Conditioning, Alloy Wheels, Outside Temperature Gauge, Walnut Interior, Front Arm Rest, Stereo, Alarm, Immobiliser. 34,700 miles ... £32,995

91H 500 SEC Auto, Almandine Metallic, Cream Leather, Electric Sunroof, Electric Windows, Air Conditioning, Electric Front Seats, Heated Front Seats, Alloy Wheels, Walnut Int, Front Arm Rest. 48,000 miles ... £28,995

94L E300 Diesel Estate Auto, Brilliant Silver, Grey Cloth, Electric Sunroof, Electric Windows, ABS, Walnut Interior, Front Armrest, Stereo. Only 11,000 miles ... £28,995

93L E320 Estate Auto, Blue Black Metallic, Cream Leather, Electric Sunroof, Electric Windows, 8 Hole Alloy Wheels, ABS, Walnut Int, Front Arm Rest. 27,000 miles ... £38,995

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C200 94 M Elegance Auto ... £23995
200E 89 G Signal Red ... £12995
220E 93 K Nautic Blue ... £21995
E220 94 L Midnight Blue ... £22995
E220 94 L Black ... £22995
E220 94 L Silver ... £23995
E220 94 L Onyx Grey ... £23995
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250D 93 K Air Con ... £27995
300CE 92 J Nautic Blue ... £30995
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E280 Est 94 L Air Con 8 holes .. £25995
E220 Est 94 L Nautic Blue ... £28995
300TE 92 J Silver Leather ... £24995
E280 Est 94 M Silver ... £30995
300SE 92 J Blue Black ... £21995
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93L SL280 Climate, Hide ... 20T £49,950
93L SL280 Climate, Hide ... 10T £51,950
92J 500SL A/C, V/Low Miles .12T £58,950
91H 500SEL ... £26,950
89G 300SEL Low Miles ... £22,995
E CLASS
89F 190E 2.6 Auto, A/C ... £12,950
94M E280 16V Auto ... £23,450
94M E220 Auto, Met ... 8T £23,950
94M E220 16V Auto ... £23,950
94M E280 High Spec ... £31,950
91J 230CE Hide, Alloys ... 25T £24,950
ESTATE
94M E300D Est Auto, RFS ... 6T £28,950
94L E220 Estate ... 17T £27,950
94M E220 Estate ... £29,950
94L E220 Estate ... £26,950
93K 200TE ... £22,995
C CLASS
94M C200 Eleg Auto ... 7T £23,950
94 C220 Auto AMG Styling ... £25,250
94 C180 Met ... DUE
94 C180 High Spec ... DUE

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92J G Wagon 300GES Almandine, Beige, 'A', Air Con, Alloys, Alarm, R/St ... 19T £32,995
92J G Wagon 300GES B/Black, Grey, 'A', ESR, Wide Alloys, EFW, R/St ... 36T £29,995
91J G Wagon 300GDL Nautic, Grey, 5Sp, ESR, Alloys, EWs, Alarm, R/St ... 27T £22,995
91H 300SL Silver, Hide, 'A', Air Con, EF Seats, Alloys, R/Lock, R/Stereo ... 28T £41,995
92J 300SL Blue Black, Cr. Hide, 'A', A/Bag, A/Con, 8 Holes, R/Seat, CD ... £41,995
92K 280E 24V Pearl, Cr Hide, 5 Sp 'A', Sportline, 8 Holes, Wal, HLWW, CD ... 17T £25,995
94M E280 24V Blue Black, Grey Hide, 'A', A/Bags, D/FR, Wal, R/M, EL, R/St ... 7T £29,995
95M E220 16V Almandine, Grey, 'A', A/Con, Wal, FAR, RF Seat, Alm, R/St ... 1T £28,995
95M E220 16V Est Azurite, Grey, 'A', A/Bags, Wal, FAR, RF Seat, Alm, R/St .. 2T £29,995
94M E300D 24V Est B/Black, Cr. Hide, 'A', C/C, HLWW, RFSeat, Wal, R/M, 8H, R/St 8T £31,995
94L E300D 24V Pearl Blue, Grey Hide, 'A', A/Con, 8H, A/Bags, C/C, EFS, HFS, Alm 8T £28,995
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91 H 500 SL Pearl Blue Blue Hide 8Spes Air Con ASR 40,000 Miles ... £49995
93 K 500 SEC Almandine, Mushroom Leather ... £49995
94 M E 320 COUPE Beryl Cream Hide, Sportline, Air Conditioning 15,000 Miles ... £41995
94 L E 320 T Malachite Mushroom Hide 8 Hole Alloys, 7 Seater 19,000 Miles ... £34995
93 L S280 Nautic Blue Metallic, ESR ... £34995
94 M E220 ESTATE Azurite Mushroom Leather Air Conditioning Alarm ... £34995
92 J 500 SEC Silver Blue Hide Air Conditioning 40,000 Miles ... £33995
94 L C250D ELEG Azurite Grey Cloth Split Seats Alarm 18,000 Miles ... £24995
91 J 230 CE Silver Grey Cloth Auto Alloys 38,000 Miles ... £24995
94 M C 180 ELEGANCE Nautic Blue Grey Cloth Auto ESR 8,000 Miles ... £21995
91 H 300 SE Nautic Blue Cream Hide 15 Hole Alloys 9,000 Miles ... £19995

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94(L) E220 Coupe Auto, Polar White/blue cloth, FAR, RHR, walnut wood, 8 hole alloys, Rad/cass/CD ... £29,995
92(J) 300CE 24V 5 speed auto, Blue Black/cream leather, air conditioning, 8 hole alloy wheels, elec drivers seat ... £30,995
94(L) SL320 Auto, Beryl/mushroom leather, electric seats, rear seats, 8 hole alloys, 1 owner ... £56,995
93(L) S320 Nautic Blue/cream leather, 8 hole alloy wheels, electric drivers seat, cruise control ... £41,995
93(K) 320TE Blue Black/grey leather, rear seats, 8 hole alloy wheels ... £38,995

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300SL 24V (J) 92 Signal Red/Black Hide, Air Con, Mem. Seats, 8 Holes ... 31T £46,950
420SL (F) 89 Nautic Blue/Grey Hide, Air Con, R/Seat, Htd Seats ... 35T £28,950
300SL (F) 89 Blue Black/Cream Hide, Rear Seat, Alloys ... 47T £35,950
380SEL (G) 90 Midnight Blue/Grey Hide, Air Con, Elec/Seats ... 34T £22,950
300SE (J) 91 Blue/Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, R.Hd Rests ... 34T £20,950
300CE 24V (J) 91 Black/Black Hide, Air Con, Sportline, Cruise ... 47T £28,950
E320 (M) 94 Azurite/Cream Hide, 5 spd, Auto, A/Con, SptLine, ... 11T £39,950
300E (J) 92 Pearl Grey/Black Cloth, Air Con, Sportline, CC, OATG ... 30T £19,950
E220 (L) 93 Blue Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, Walnut, 8 Holes ... 9T £22,950
E200 (L) 94 Midnight Blue/ Grey Cloth, Auto, Sunroof, E/Windows ... 24T £21,950
200E (J) 91 Silver/Black Cloth, Auto, Sunroof, E/Windows ... 44T £14,950
E220TE (L) 94 Nautic/Grey Hide, Air Con, R/Seat, 8 Hole Alloys ... 12T £29,950
300TE (K) 92 Pearl Grey/Grey Cloth, Air Con, R/Seat, Airbags ... 30T £27,950
300 TE (H) 91 Midnight Blue/Grey Cloth, Rear seat, Walnut ... 42T £26,950
E220T (L) 93 Black/Cream Cloth, Auto, R/Seat, FCA, Alloys ... 29T £25,950
230TE (K) 92 Almandine/Black Cloth, R/Seat, Walnut, 8 Holes ... 26T £20,950
230TE (J) 92 Blue Black/Grey Cloth, 8H Alloys ... 26T £22,950
C250D Esprit (M) 94 Blue Black/Black Cloth, Manual, Sunroof ... 3T £21,950
C280 Elegance (L) 94 Blue Black/Grey Cloth, Auto, ESR, E/Windows ... 6T £22,950
190E 2.5 16V (H) 91 Almandine/Black Hide, Auto, ASD, H/Seats ... 25T £18,950
190 2.5 (J) 91 Beryl Blue/Grey Cloth, E/Sunroof, E/Windows ... 35T £16,950
190E 2.0 (K) 92 Pearl Grey/Grey Cloth, E/Sunroof, E/Windows ... 34T £15,950
190E 1.8 (K) 92 Silver/Grey Cloth, Manual, Sunroof, Stereo ... 31T £13,950

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93 (L) SL500 Auto, White, leather, r/seat, alloys, aircon 14T £67,995
91 (J) 500SL Auto, White, leather, r/seat, ADS, ASR, aircon 23T £54,995
91 (H) 500SL Auto, White, leather, climate, ADS, ASR, t/airbags 60T £47,995
88 (F) 500SL Auto, Petrol Blue, cloth, aircon, r/seat 29T £26,995
93 (L) 500SEL Auto, Nautic Blue, leather, h/seats, CD, skibag, 8-h alloys 15T £58,995
93 (K) 300SE Auto, Silver, leather, climate, 8-h alloys, ESR, CD 22T £39,995
91 (J) 300E Auto, Silver, blue cloth, alloys, ESR, e/windows, h/w/wipe 91T £16,995
90 (G) 300E 24v Auto, Silver, sportline, aircon, sports seat 75T £17,995
92 (J) 250 Diesel Manual, Smoke Silver, ESR, ABS, r/head rests 27T £17,995
95 (M) E320 Auto (5-speed) Azurite Blue, leather, aircon, sportline 1T £41,995
94 (M) E320 Coupe Manual, Onyx Grey, sport cloth, AMG wheels climate, e/seats/column, sportline susp, Bose CD, alarm 7T £49,995
93 (L) E320 Coupe Auto, Nautic Blue, aircon, AMG wheels/spoiler 28T £34,995
94 (L) E220 Auto, Blue black, grey cloth, t/airbags, f/armrest, remote anti-theft 6T £23,995
94 (M) E200 Auto, Onyx Grey, ESR, cruise, 8-h alloys, r/lamp 8T £23,995
93 (L) E200 Auto, Silver, cloth, ESR, e/windows, r/headrests 18T £21,995
93 (L) E200 Auto, Pearl Blue, cloth, r/rests, ESR 18T £21,995
92 (K) 260E Auto, Impala Brown, walnut, r/rests, ESR 10T £23,995
93 (L) 220TE Auto, Pearl Blue, cloth, ESR, h/w/wipe, 8-h alloys 7T £26,495
91 (J) 200TE Auto, White, ESR, walnut 13T £18,995
93 (L) C220 Manual, 'Classic', White, AMG bodykit/wheels, ESR 9T £22,995
94 (M) C180 Auto, 'Elegance', Silver, black cloth, remote anti-theft 14T £21,995
94 (L) C180 Auto, 'Elegance', Onyx Grey, black cloth, remote anti-theft 11T £21,495
94 (L) C180 Auto, 'Elegance', White, black cloth, remote anti-theft 9T £21,495
94 (L) C180 Auto, 'Elegance', Nautic Blue, cloth, alarm 11T £21,495
93 (L) 190E 1.8 Auto, Signal Red, cloth, airbag, ABS, e/windows 23T £17,495
92 (K) 190E 2.0 Auto, Signal Red, sport cloth, ABS, ESR 26T £16,995
92 (J) 190E 2.0 Auto, Midnight Blue, man.SR, ABS, e/windows 43T £15,495
87 (E) 190 2.0 Manual, Signal Red, man.SR, boot spoiler, alarm 78T £ 7,495

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93L SL500 Nautic, mushroom leather, climate, 8 holes, htd seats, ADS .. 12T £59,950
95M E320 Coupe Auto Blue black, leather, 5sp auto, cruise, sportline, otg .2T £45,950
95M E220 Coupe Auto Blue black, leather, cruise, 8h alls, walnut, otg ... 2T £35,950
92 500SEL Smoke, air, electric seats, cruise, alloys, r/stereo ... 29T £39,950
ESTATES
95M E280T 16V Auto Smoke, Mushroom cloth, esr, walnut, alarm, r/stereo .3T £37,950
91J 230TE Auto Anthracite, grey cloth, abs, esr, ew, otg, Superb ... 78T £16,950
88 300TE Auto Silver, blue leather, elec seat, alloys, esr, heated seats 61T £14,950
DIESEL/DIESEL ESTATE
95M E300D 24V Auto Almandine, ltr, cruise, walnut, 80 L tank, abs, r/st ... 4T £36,950
93 300D Auto Smoke, cream LEATHER, walnut, abs, esr, armrest ... 49T £22,450
92K 300D Auto Anthracite, grey cloth, abs, esr, walnut, armrest ... 46T £20,950
92K 300TD Auto ESTATE Nautic, rear seat, AIR, walnut, fans, Superb .. 79T £21,950
SALOONS
94 320E 24V Auto Blue black, 8h alls, climate, otg, E class grille & lights 15T £32,950
95M E280 24V Auto Almandine, grey cloth, 8 hole alloys, alarm, CD player 4T £30,950
95M E200 16V Auto Tourmaline, esr, ew, walnut, ltr, alarm, r/st ... 2T £24,950
94 E200 16V Auto Imperial, esr, armrest, airbag, alarm, r/st ... 15T £21,950
91J 300E Auto Blue black, grey cloth, cruise, alloys, otg, r/st ... 58T £19,950
92K 230E Auto Pearl grey met, grey cloth, esr, ew, abs, armrest ... 40T £19,950
91J 300E Auto Pearl blue, abs, esr, ew, alloys, hwr, r/st, one owner ... 30T £19,950
93 220E 16V 5sp Bornite, spt cloth, SPORTLINE, AIR, wal, V Special .85T £18,950
91J 260E Auto Pajett, cream cloth, esr, armrest, r/stereo ... 48T £16,950
87E 260E Auto White black cloth, esr, ew, abs, r/st ... 59T £12,950
94M C250 Diesel Eleg Auto Blue black, grey cloth, r/c, fans, towbar ++ .15T £24,950
94M C220D Auto DIESEL Esprit Malachite, esr, dlr chest, abs, r/st ... 3T £23,450
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91J 190E 2.5 16v, Grey Cloth, AT, ABS, ESR, RHR, FAR, HLWW ... 78T £12,995
93L 190D Dark Blue, Cream Cloth, 5Spd Man, MSR, EWS, ABS ... 40T £14,995
91H 300E 24v Silver, Grey Hide, Sportline Susp, C.C, Htd Seats, Stereo ... 58T £21,995
94M 300E 24v Nautic Blue, Cream Hide, Sportline Susp, C.C, Stereo ... 6T £39,995
94L C180 ELEGANCE Pearl Blue, Blue Cloth, Auto, ESR, EWs, Stereo ... 13T £20,995
94M C200 SPORT Silver, Black Cloth, AT, EHR, FAR, Stereo, Alarm ... 7T £24,995
94L C220 ELEGANCE Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, AT, ESR, EW ... 16T £23,995
94L C220 CLASSIC Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, Auto, ESR, EW2, Stereo ... 16T £23,995
94L E200 EST. White, Black Cloth, AT, ESR, EW2, WV, LSW ... 20T £24,995
94L E220 Silver, Blue Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, WV, A.Bags ... 13T £24,495
94L E220 Imperial Red, Cream Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, WV, WW ... 11T £23,995
93K 220TE Silver, Blue Cloth, Auto, Rear Facing Seat, BKW, Stereo ... 34T £21,995
94M E300D EST. Malachite, Cream Cloth, AT, R.F.St, WV, Stereo ... 10T £29,995
94L E200 LIMO 8 Door, Blue Black, Grey Tex, Air Con ... 4T £49,995
94M E280 Silver, Black Hide, 5Spd AT, Air Con, CC ... 5T £34,995
94L E280 Black, Grey Cloth, AT, RHR, FAR, WV, OTG, Stereo ... 16T £29,995
94M E320 CABRIOLET Blue Black, Cream Hide, 5Spd Auto, Sportline, [illegible] ... 11T £48,995
94M E320T Azurite Blue, Cream Hide, C.C, 5Spd AT, ASR, R.F.St ... 4T £44,995
94M E320 Silver, Black Hide, 5Spd AT, Air Con, 8 AW, C.C ... 5T £36,995

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95 SL280 Good Spec ... £54,995
92 500SL Very High Spec ... 37T £52,995
91J 300SL High Spec, Auto ... £49,995
93 S280 Full Spec ... 20T £40,995
J 560SEC Ultimate Spec ... 17T £36,995
K E320C Good Spec ... £35,995
94 300D Auto, High Spec ... £26,995
92 300SL Auto, 'E', High Spec . 45T £24,995
92 300E 24V Auto, Full Spec ... £24,995
94 C250 Elegance Auto ... 6T £24,995
90 300CE Good Spec, Auto ... £24,995
K 280E Good Spec ... £23,995
M C200 Eleg Auto, Good Spec .10T £23,995
94 C280 Elegance Auto ... 4T £23,995
M C180 Elegance Auto ... 7T £22,995
92 C180 Elegance Auto ... £21,995
M C180 Esprit Good Spec ... 11T £21,995
93L C220 Classic Auto ... 15T £20,995
91 E300TD Seven seats, Auto ... £19,995
91 300SE Good Spec, Auto ... £19,995
94 200E Auto, High Spec ... £19,995
K E250D Auto ... £18,995
93 190 2.5 D High Spec ... £17,495
G 300E High Spec ... 45T £16,995
G 200E Auto, Good Spec ... £12,995
92 600SEL Superb Spec, Auto ... P.O.A.
M E320CE Auto, Superb Spec ... P.O.A.
94 E320 Cabriolet Total Spec .14T £47,995
91 300SL Hi Spec ... 28T £41,995
92 300SE High Spec ... £36,995
93 E320CE Total Spec ... 28T £37,995
94 E300TD High Spec ... 3T £32,995
93 E280 AMG & Total Spec ... £30,995
95 320CE Auto, High Spec ... 25T £29,995
93 300TD C Class Conv ... 16T £26,995
92 300CE 24V Superb Spec ... £27,995
M E230T Auto, 7 Seats, Hi Spec ... DUE
M E280T Auto, High Spec ... 10T DUE
95 E220 Auto High Spec ... DUE
L C220 Eleg Auto, Hi Spec ... 12T £25,995
L E220 Auto High Spec ... £23,995
93 300D High Spec ... 17T £22,995
H 300CE Good Spec ... £22,995
L E200 Auto, High Spec ... 11T £22,995
H 300SE Total Spec ... 45T £21,995
L C180 Elegance Auto, Hi Spec . 22T DUE
91 Cosworth 2.5 Hide, E.S, ASD .. £20,995
L 190D 2.5 Auto, High Spec ... £19,995
J 190D 2.5 High Spec ... 34T £16,995
89-92 190E Selection from ... £ 9,995

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93 (L) SL500 Arctic White, Blue Hide, Twin A/Bags, RCS, 8H Alloys, Stereo ... 16T £59,995
94 (M) E220 Coupe Silver, Grey Hide, Auto, Twin ABs, 8 Hole Alloys, ISV, OATG .11T £38,995
92 (K) 300E Black, Black Sports Cloth, Sportline Suspension & Int, A/C, Walnut ... 25T £25,995
92 (K) 300TE 24V Signal Red, Black Hide, A/C, 5 Spd Auto, 3rd/RF, RFS, Stereo .25T £31,995
92 (K) 300TE 24V Smoke Silver, Cream Hide, RFS, Walnut, Stereo ... 20T £32,995
94 (L) E280 Smoke Silver, Mushroom Cloth, High Spec ... 4T £28,495
95 (M) E220 Almandine, Cream Cloth, Auto, Front Armrest, Walnut, Alarm, Stereo .. 4T £26,995
94 (L) E220 Pearl Blue, Grey Cloth, Auto, Air Con, Alarm, CD ... 5T £25,995
94 (L) E220 Polar White, Black Cloth, Auto, Twin Airbags, FAR, RHR, Alarm ... 4T £22,995
94 (L) E220 Onyx, Black Cloth, Auto, Anti-Theft, Front Armrest ... 16T £22,995
94 (L) E220 Almandine, Black Cloth, Auto, Anti-Theft, Front Armrest ... 11T £22,495
94 (L) E220 Azurite, Blue Cloth, Auto, Anti-Theft, Front Armrest ... 10T £22,995
92 (K) 230TE Anthracite, Cream Cloth, Auto, Elec Windows & Roof ... 16T £20,995
94 (L) C220 Elegance Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, 8 Hole Alloys, Stereo ... 18T £20,995
94 (M) C200 Elegance Imperial Red, Grey Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo ... 12T £22,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Polar White, Black Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo ... 10T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Pearl Blue, Blue Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo ... 11T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Silver, Black Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo ... 12T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Rosewood, Mushroom Cloth, Auto, Alarm, Stereo ... 9T £20,995
94 (L) C180 Elegance Black, Grey Cloth, Auto, Stereo ... 4T £20,995

Gatwick
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92K 300SL Signal Red, Black Hide, 8 Hole Alloys, A/Con, Rear Seats ... 27T £57,995
89F 300SL Silver, Blue Cloth, Stereo ... 28T £24,995
94M S500L Black, Cream Exclusive Hide, 8 Hole Alloys, CD, Anti-theft ... 2T £69,995
93L S280 Midnight Blue, Cream Hide, Climate Control ... 11T £36,995
93K 300CE Pearl Blue, Cream Hide, Air Conditioning ... 19T £31,995
92J 300CE Smoke Silver, Air Conditioning, Rear Blind, Electric Seats ... 12T £31,995
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93L C220 Sport Silver, Black Cloth, Auto, EFW, FAR ... 14T £28,495
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93L 190E 2.0 Malachite, grey cloth, [illegible] ... 22T £17,995
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94L E220 Cabriolet B/black, mushroom hide, [illegible] ... 11T £36,995
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94M E220 Auto Tourmaline, [illegible] ... 3T £28,995
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94L 220E Auto Black, [illegible] ... 15T £21,995
89G 230CE Auto Silver [illegible] ... 37T £21,995
94M E300T Diesel Auto Silver, [illegible] ... 4T £31,995
94M E320 Auto Silver, [illegible] ... 1T £33,495
94M E320 Auto Almandine [illegible] ... 1T £34,995
93L E220 Cabriolet Auto Pearl blue, hide, [illegible] ... 13T £38,995
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89H 190E Auto [illegible] ... 56T £13,995
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93K 300E 24V Auto [illegible] ... 31T £26,995
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Daddy of them all: the Ainscoughs with their 1929 Chrysler, the oldest car in the race

Teams rev up for a 30-day Latin dash

One of the great motoring adventures of the decade gets under way two weeks from today, when 60 cars roar away at the start of the 1995 London-Mexico Rally (Edward Gorman writes).

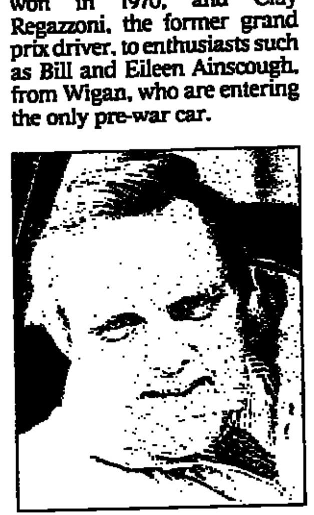
The 10,000-mile event, passing through 18 countries in 30 days, is being staged to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the World Cup Rally run in 1970.

That turned into an epic battle between the major works teams of the day — Citroën, British Leyland, Peugeot, Mercedes-Benz and Ford. Only 23 of the 96 cars made it to the finish and Ford celebrated its win by launching the Escort Mexico.

Cars entered this time range from a Porsche 911 which won the Tour de France and the Corsica Rally in 1969, to a Volvo Amazon which took part in the London to Sydney marathon two years ago, and a 1955 Bentley S1 which has already completed the London-Peking-Hong Kong Challenge and the London-Saigon Challenge.

The route begins in London and passes through France, Spain and Portugal. The cars are then airfreighted overnight to Rio and head off on a 14,500ft crossing of the Andes through Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador and Colombia to the finish in Acapulco.

The drivers are each paying £15,000 to enter and include seven who competed in the original race. They are drawn from 23 countries and range from professionals such as Hannu Mikkola, the former world rally champion who won in 1970, and Clay Regazzoni, the former grand prix driver, to enthusiasts such as Bill and Eileen Ainscough, from Wigan, who are entering the only pre-war car.



Fall: drove in the 1970 rally

The British contingent is led by Roger Clark, the five times British rally champion, who was eliminated in 1970 after a collision in Argentina. Other British entrants include Tony Fall, who was co-driven in 1970 by Jimmy Greaves, the former Tottenham and England footballer.

The Ainscoughs will be happy just to finish in the oldest car in the race, a 1929 Chrysler 77. The couple, both 46 and rallying fanatics, hope to raise at least £10,000 from donations and sponsorship for the Save the Children Fund.

Another Briton hoping to raise money for charity is Nick Sharples, a major in the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, who drives a 23-year-old Mark I Ford Escort, similar to the winning car in 1970. He is hoping to raise £10,000 for the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Sick Children.

Major Sharples and his co-driver, Corporal Mick Isted, can't wait to get on the road. "We'd love to win the Sportsmanship Award," he said. "We'll stop and help any of the others who get into trouble. We're out there for an enjoyable time."

Owners in a fix over recalls confusion

By Tony Dawe

OWNERS of potentially faulty cars are facing mounting confusion as three leading manufacturers struggle to organise the recall of more than 700,000 vehicles.

Vauxhall, Volkswagen and Renault are all writing to owners asking them to book their cars in with dealers for urgent repairs but some drivers are finding dealers unaware of the recall and even the makers uncertain about which models require modifications.

In one of the worst cases, Lasitha Leelasena, of Ilford, Essex, was assured that his Vauxhall Astra was not affected by a potential fire risk disclosed in February only to receive a letter this week marked "Urgent Recall Information" and advising him to contact his local dealer as soon as possible.

"I was astonished to receive the recall notice after being told my car was safe," Mr Leelasena said. "I have been driving it for six weeks unaware that it was faulty and have now been told that I must wait a couple more weeks before it can be modified. When I tried to get an explanation from Vauxhall, the company was unhelpful."

Almost 500,000 Astras are being recalled for a grounding clamp to be fitted at the neck of the petrol tank to prevent static electricity causing a possible fire. Vauxhalls fitted with airbags are also being recalled to check a possible faulty connection.

Volkswagen is experiencing difficulty in contacting 100,000 owners of Golfs and Jettas made between 1983 and 1989 to repair a heating system fault and Renault has been criticised for its handling of the recall of Espace turbo diesels to modify a fault which has caused more than 40 fires.

Caroline Charles explains her motoring designs to **Anna Maxted**

'I've simply got to be able to move house in my car'

Fashion designer Caroline Charles has clothed the likes of the Princess of Wales and Emma Thompson and crafted modish outfits for The Beatles, Lulu and Petula Clark.

She prefers to dress in black and likes her cars to match. There have, though, been exceptions: a white Lotus Elan which caught fire in Edinburgh, and a grey Alfa Romeo spider which spent most of its life in the garage as she didn't understand the Italian manual. "But," she recalls wistfully, "it *was* glamorous."

How did you learn to drive?

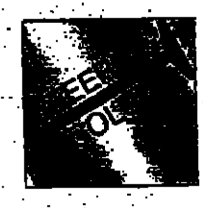
On the parade ground, because my father was a soldier. It was brilliant: you had this huge level space with nobody in the way. I had two proper lessons where the instructor did all those things instructors do to young girls' knees — I suppose they're 17 and the right age for it. I passed my test the second time. The first time I didn't see a cyclist.

What was your first car?

A Mini Cooper. It was in the Sixties and it was turquoise. I remember the colour because it was stolen and used as a getaway car in some thieving business, and I went to court. The judge said: "What do you mean turquoise? Was it blue or green?" "Turquoise, m'lud." I got it back. I took it on my honeymoon.

What car do you drive now?

I'm on my first BMW, which makes me feel I've really arrived. It's a 318ti compact: the boot goes flat. That's one of my most important criteria for cars; it's got to be black, have a good radio, be automatic, and I've simply got to be able to move house in it. My daughter moved and we got the dining room table in. I like a car to be a bit of a Pickford's van.



Do you enjoy driving?

Yes. I like the acceleration in my car and the feeling of safety when you're overtaking. And I rather do secretly think that I like the little badge on the front.

What is your dream car?

This is tricky. What I really dream about is having a chauffeur — and then he could choose anything he liked. I'd prefer an old Jaguar or an old Lagonda.

What is your most hated car?

One that doesn't work. My husband has a car that people love to hate: a yellow Skoda with a soft top. Because people love to hate it, I love it more.

What is your worst habit in the car?

You can't really do these things anymore, but you used to be able to leave the lights on in your car at the airport, get on the plane and go to work, come back and think [she tuts] 'the car's not working.' Now, my car has a 'der-der! der-der!

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

If they hoot their horns. I like tranquillity at every level. I like to be untroubled by people revving.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I went on the road with a show, and one car didn't pitch up. We had to go to Cheltenham. We had four models, 70 garments and me in this car. Clothes come with hats and shoes and make-up boxes. It took two and a half hours.

Have you ever had penalty points on your licence?

In the distant past. I drifted straight across three sets of red lights in Oxford Street. I was talking to somebody.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

He has said that if fumes are coming out of the back of a car or taxi you should report them. I would have the equivalent of a clamper and apply some immediate fine or gross inconvenience to any car or taxi that was exuding fumes.

What's your most hated car ad?

I'd like car ads not to be a hated thing, but a thing of beauty and joy. I don't understand Nicole, though. Papa seems to be giving her a car which she can use to go off with her lover, and when she comes back he goes "tsk! *Nicole!*"

ROBIN MAYES

Sitting pretty: Caroline Charles and her BMW

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Ford in plea for company car tax incentive

FORD is asking the Government to give tax breaks to company car drivers to encourage them to fit hi-tech safety equipment (Kevin Eason writes).

The company's contract hire arm, which manages a fleet of 30,000 cars, discovered that firms were unwilling to pay the cost of devices such as airbags or anti-lock brakes even though they believed they were important aids for safety.

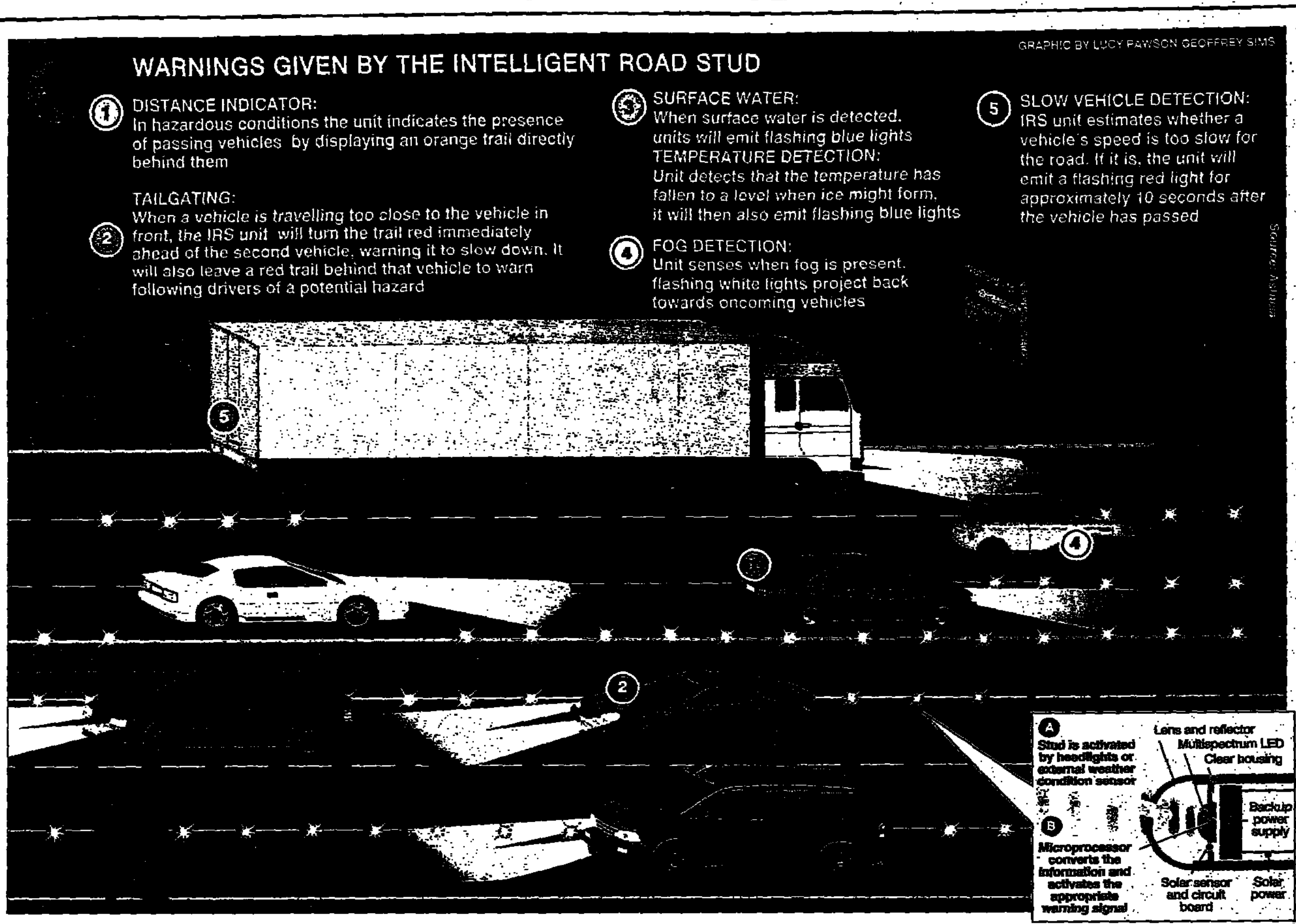
Employees are also shunning equipment which could raise the price of their company car, increasingly aware that the price directly affects the level of benefit-in-kind personal tax they have to pay.

Forty-five per cent told Ford that airbags were important and 43 per cent named anti-lock brakes as a safety aid. But 20 per cent said that they did not choose cars with anti-lock brakes because they would not pay the extra cost, which could be £1,000, of fitting them to models which did not have the system as standard.

Ian Wardle, manager of Ford Contract Motoring, which questioned 250 fleet managers, said: "One of the major reasons why these safety devices are not fitted is that they are offered as a driver option which tends not to be requested. This must reflect the fact that the level of company car taxation is based on the all-inclusive cost of a company car.

"We would argue that the cost of such safety features should be discounted from the overall cost of the vehicle before it is valued for company car taxes. If this was the case, many more drivers offered these features as an option would take them up — and they would be much safer as a result."

Up to 3 million company cars are on the road with half of annual sales of new cars going to fleets. Ford, with its Fiestas, Escorts, Mondeos and Transit vans, is the biggest supplier.



GRAPHIC BY LUCY PAWSON GEOFFREY SIMS

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② TAILGATING:
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③ SURFACE WATER:
When surface water is detected, units will emit flashing blue lights
TEMPERATURE DETECTION:
Unit detects that the temperature has fallen to a level when ice might form, it will then also emit flashing blue lights

④ FOG DETECTION:
Unit senses when fog is present, flashing white lights project back towards oncoming vehicles

⑤ SLOW VEHICLE DETECTION:
IRS unit estimates whether a vehicle's speed is too slow for the road. If it is, the unit will emit a flashing red light for approximately 10 seconds after the vehicle has passed

Ⓐ Stud is activated by headlights or external weather condition sensor

Ⓑ Microprocessor converts the information and activates the appropriate warning signal

Source: Astucia

New cat's eye waits for green light

Jonathan Prynn looks at a modern version of a British invention

Computerised cat's eyes that flash different colours to warn motorists of hazards such as fog or black ice could be lighting up the motorways and main roads of Britain by the end of the century.

Codenamed the Intelligent Road Stud (IRS), the idea was developed by scientists in Yorkshire and is already drawing the attention of highway authorities as far away as California and Saudi Arabia.

Unlike the current cat's eye, a spectacularly successful British invention developed in the 1930s, the IRS emits a light beam rather than merely returning a reflection from headlights.

Each one contains a tiny microprocessor and sensors that detect different weather conditions and the speed of passing traffic. It is powered by a solar cell and a tiny internal battery.

In fog, the new cat's eyes will flash white, providing drivers with a clear outline of the road ahead. Traditional cat's eyes are at their least effective in thick fog because their is little or no reflection from headlamps.

In cold weather, the cat's eye emits a blue flash when the temperature falls close to freezing to warn of black ice. Heavy rain, bringing the possibility of aquaplaning on surface water, also triggers a blue light.

In all these tough conditions, the new cat's eye leaves a trail of orange flashing lights behind passing cars, indicating the approximate stopping distances to following motorists. A tailgating feature also means that if a driver encroaches into the trail, the lights turn red, warning that the cars are not a safe distance apart.

But if dangerous speed merchants cannot escape the all-seeing cat's eye, neither can the irritating, and sometimes equally hazardous slow-lane crawler. The cat's eye is programmed to detect vehicles moving at unusually low speeds on fast roads, say 30mph on a motorway. Such vehicles will leave a flashing red trail for ten seconds after they have passed, warning faster drivers they have a "slowcoach" in front of them.

The IRS has already been demonstrated to Transport Department officials and, if they give the go-ahead, trials could start on UK roads, probably a stretch of the M40, within two years.

The potential market for Astucia, the Doncaster-based firm behind the invention, is vast. Britain's 2,500 miles of motorway network averages about 800 cat's eyes per mile, while on some minor roads they are only a metre apart.

The main stumbling block may prove to be cost. Traditional cat's eyes cost about £4, but the IRS will be priced considerably higher.

Mustang is a must attraction at car auction

A FORD Mustang convertible, once owned by Times Newspapers, is one of the stars at an auction on Monday at Belle Vue, Manchester (Kevin Eason writes).

Quite why such an esteemed newspaper should want a 1965 American soft-top is a mystery but it seems that the car may have been run exclusively by Henry Longhurst, the late and longtime golf correspondent for *The Sunday Times*.

The logbook shows Times Newspapers as the first keeper but Longhurst imported the powerful V8 as a new car from the United States, presumably attracted by the shapely lines which had no equal at the time in the British motor industry.

Longhurst bequeathed the car 15 years ago to Peter Alliss, another famous name in golf, who has cherished the open top in his garage with few miles being added. The car, in skylight blue, has 72,000 miles on the clock and sports a black, powered convertible hood, a $54 (£36) option when the car was bought by Longhurst.

There is the original radio and a three-speed transmission and power steering, which would have been almost unheard of in Britain during the 1960s in anything but the most luxurious cars.

But the Mustang could be an affordable sports car. The model came in a series of options, from straightforward hardtop with in-line six cylinder engine to out-and-out sports car with the more powerful V8 option. That made the Mustangs of the 1960s, with their leaping horse badges, the most desirable among collectors. A model run by two golfing celebrities and once owned by the world's oldest daily newspaper will presumably attract much interest.

Viewing for the Belle Vue sale starts at 1pm tomorrow with the auction at 9.30am Monday. Admission £10 by catalogue only.

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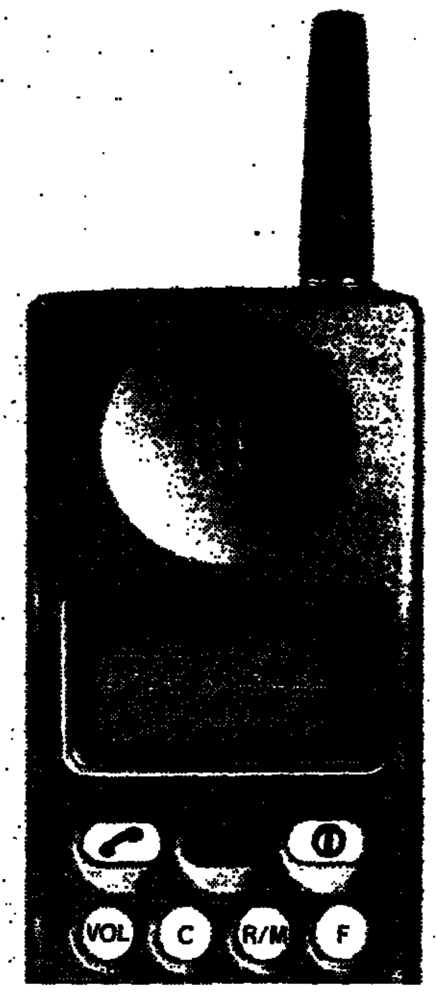

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TRAVEL

Make the most of a trip through the Chunnel

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PLUS: Play the casinos in Nevada, page 17

COLLECTING

Football supporter in a league of his own

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PLUS: Preview from the auction rooms, page 15

PROPERTY

Where to rent or buy a house in a cathedral close

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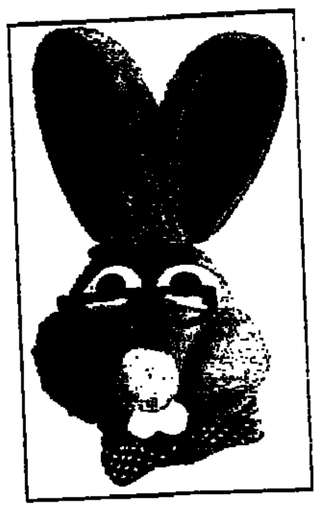
PLUS: Homes for sale for £94,000, page 13

SHOPPING



Easter eggs: the good, the fab and the sickly

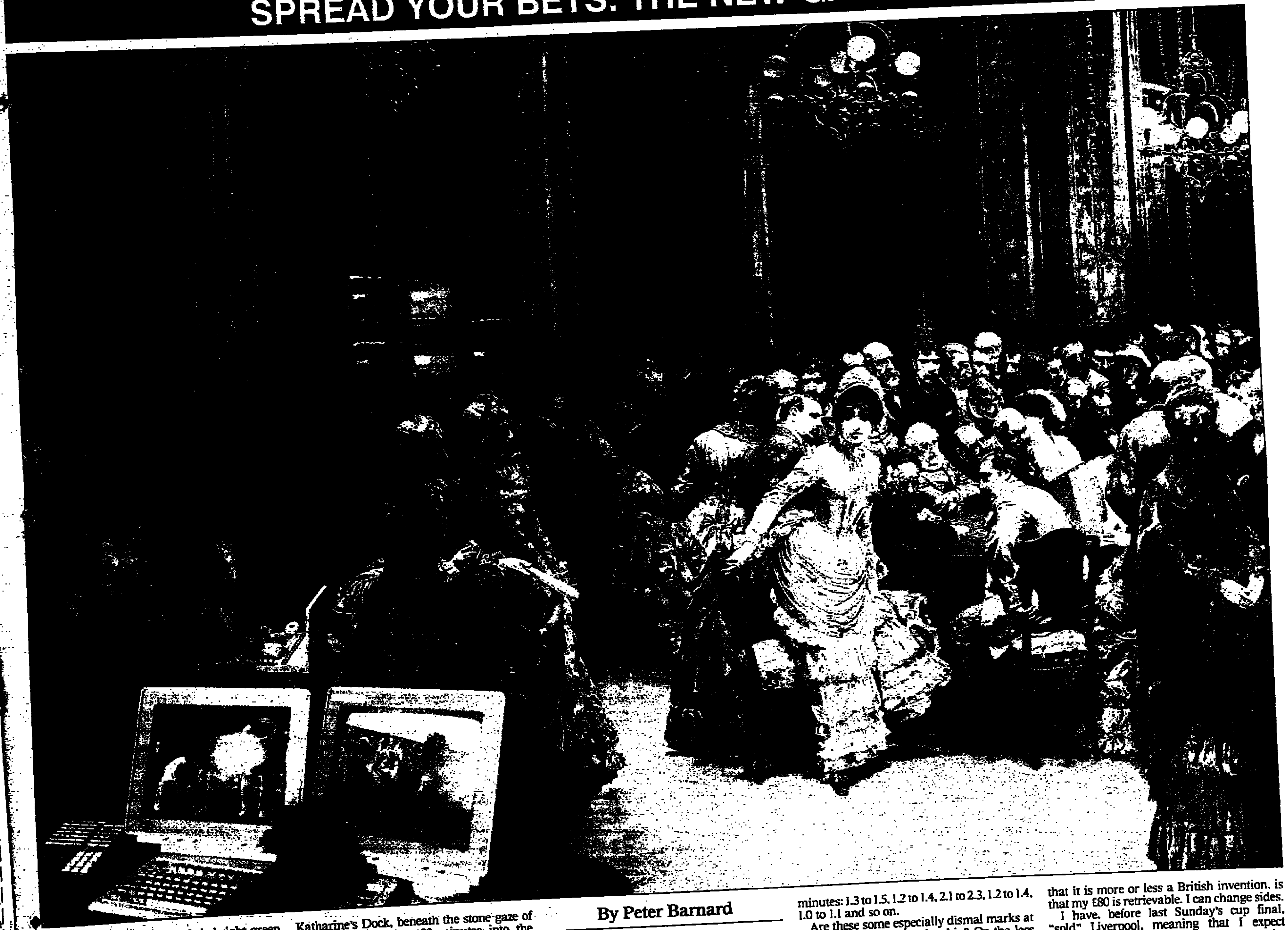
PAGE 11

PLUS: Last-minute mail order eggs, page 11

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 8 1995

SPREAD YOUR BETS: THE NEW GAMBLING



By Peter Barnard

The Wembley pitch is bright green under the intense sunlight, as the players battle it out for the first of this season's football trophies. A cup final must be one of the great sights of British sport. Not that I am at Wembley: all that noise, my dear, and the crash of people. Instead, I am watching the Coca-Cola Cup final from the comfort of a sofa. If I turn away from the television screen, I can switch from the frenetic activity on the pitch to the real-life calm of boats gleaming in the same sun at their moorings in St Katharine's Dock, beneath the stone gaze of Tower Bridge. Then, 38 minutes into the match, a young, skinny Liverpool player called McManaman beats first one Bolton defender and then another and then the goalkeeper. And then me. McManaman is ecstatic. The goalkeeper, Branagan, is downcast. I am down £80, or I would be if this were not, thank heaven, a notional £80. I am not about to gamble real money on a system of which I had never heard until a week ago.

As the goal goes in, there is a burst of activity in the dealing room next door, one of the few in the City of London that can be busier at weekends than during the week. Keys are pressed. What had been 0.9 to 1.1 at the start of the match becomes 1.5 to 1.7. These strange, even mystic arrangements of figures have reached that point via 0.7 to 0.9 (after 20 minutes) and 0.6 to 0.8 (30 minutes).

In the second half there will be more movement, with only the decimal points remaining constant for more than a few minutes: 1.3 to 1.5, 1.2 to 1.4, 2.1 to 2.3, 1.2 to 1.4, 1.0 to 1.1 and so on.

Are these some especially dismal marks at a figure-skating championship? Or the less alarming reaches of Mr Richter's scale? Nothing so prosaic. The dry numerics belong to something much more volatile and exciting than a spin by budding skaters or a rumpus beneath the Earth's crust.

This is spread betting, a new-ish kid on the gambling block for those who spend their time in the study of odds and form. And the beauty of spread betting, apart from the fact that it is more or less a British invention, is that my £80 is retrievable. I can change sides.

I have, before last Sunday's cup final, "sold" Liverpool, meaning that I expect Bolton to score first. But Liverpool possess the upstart McManaman, so I have lost. But now I can "buy" Liverpool, meaning I expect Liverpool to go on scoring, thus cutting my losses and, hopefully, getting into profit. Not that I need care who wins: I can bet on the total number of goals, the number of corners,

Continued on page 3, col 1

One screenwriter. Two stars. Two directors.
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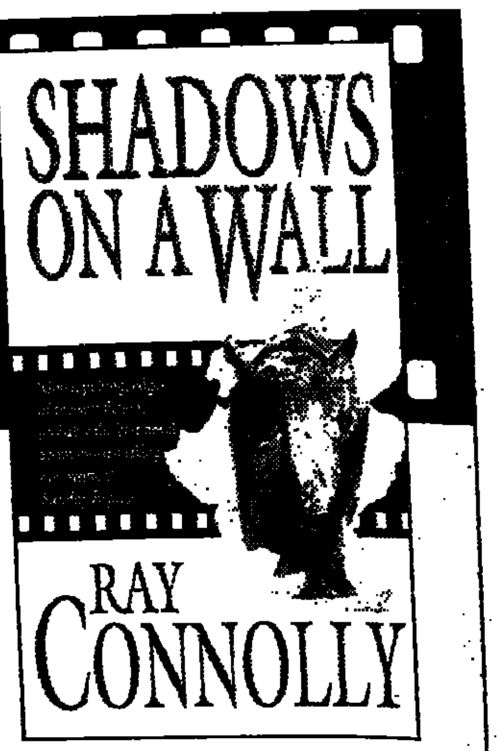


CHOICE

Planning an evening out, or a day with your family? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

HOLY SOUNDS: A particularly fine array of performers assemble at Smith Square to provide Music for Holy Week. The Allegri Quartet plays Haydn's extraordinarily anguished string quartet, *The Seven Last Words from the Cross*, on Monday. Gesualdo's bizarrely chromatic but brilliant Good Friday Responsories are sung by the Hilliard Ensemble on Tuesday; and The Sixteen sings another Renaissance masterpiece, Victoria's Requiem, on Thursday. Finally, on Good Friday, Bach's St John Passion is sung by a rising young choir, Polyphony, conducted by Stephen Layton.
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (0171-222 1061), all at 7.30pm except the Good Friday performance, which is at 2.30pm.

ALDEBURGH EARLY MUSIC: Philip Pickett is the artistic director of next weekend's Aldeburgh Early Music Festival, and launches proceedings on Thursday with an epic evening in which his New London Consort will play all six of Bach's Brandenburg Concertos, complemented by a kind of Baroque slide-show: the projection of paintings that illustrate the "allegories" that inspired Bach. It sounds suspiciously like what passed for music lectures in my college days, but doubtless it will be utterly uplifting. The weekend also includes a marvellous programme of French Baroque music from the visiting Concert Spirituel.
Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Snape, Suffolk (01728 453543), Thur 13 to Mon 17. Ⓢ

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

PETER GRIMES: The premiere of Britten's masterpiece in 1945 marked a decisive turning-point, a kiss of life to awaken British opera from its slumber of two centuries — since Handel's *Semele* of 1744. The Royal Opera marks the 50th anniversary with a revival of Elijah Moshinsky's mould-breaking, but now classic production. The cast is formidable: the Canadian Heldentenor Ben Heppner, a Grimes doubtless more in the Vickers than the Pears tradition, plus Josephine Barstow as Ellen Orford and Bryn Terfel as Balstrode. The Italian conductor Arturo Tamayo is in the pit; the revival moves on to Palermo next month.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), tonight, Tues 11, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

UN BALLO IN MASCHERA: Verdi's near-surrealist treatment of an historical event — the assassination of King Gustaf III of Sweden in his own opera house 60 years earlier — remains one of his most enigmatic operas. But investigation of the enigma is not the main selling point of this revival of Otto Schenk's bewhiskered staging: Luciano Pavarotti returns to Covent Garden in one of his most congenial roles, one requiring the vocal elegance that he has in spades. Deborah Voigt and Lillian Watson provide the love interest, Giorgio Zancanaro is the assassin, and Edward Downes conducts. Prices are steep, but that will not (or rather has not) put the punters off.
Royal Opera House, Bow St, London WC2 (0171-304 4000), Thur 13, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

FILMS

Geoff Brown

DUMB AND DUMBER (12): Stupidity is fashionable in this age of *Forrest Gump*, so the American success of this idiot comedy is only to be expected. Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels rack up a fair number of laughs as two hapless friends with scarcely two brain cells to rub together, though they might have managed more had Peter and Bob Farrelly, the film's devisers, injected some variety into the script. The film delivers what it wants to sell, and the schoolboy humour is always good-natured.

Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels

Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323); **MGMs: Baker Street** (0171-935 9772), **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096); **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666), **Leicester Square** (01426 915683), **Marble Arch** (01426 914501), **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098); **Screen on the Green** (0171-226 3520); **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332).

HOOP DREAMS (15): A three-hour documentary about basketball sounds a fearsome experience, but film-makers Steve James, Fred Marx and Peter Gilbert turn the occasion into a wonderfully absorbing portrait of the American dream at work. For more than four years, their cameras stuck close to two inner-city teenagers who begin with partial baseball scholarships to the same Chicago school. Then life plays its tricks: parents go on welfare, a ligament gets torn, a father drifts into drugs. Packed with detail and colourful characters, it is like the Great American Novel transferred to film.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279)

● *More films, page 6.*

PETER MANSFIELD

The Allegri Quartet will be playing Music for Holy Week at St John's, Smith Square, in London

JAZZ

Clive Davis

PHIL WOODS/SPIKE ROBINSON: The legacy of Charlie Parker lives on in the feverish bebop solos of Phil Woods, perhaps the most admired of all post-Bird alto saxophonists. Approaching bus-pass age, he still handles the whirlwind chord changes with nonchalance, though what truly sets him apart from his many rivals are his full tone and his aversion to over-used licks. Spike Robinson's belated success holds out hope for all those middle-aged dreamers who long for the time when they can ditch the day job and take their tenor saxophones on the road. He has made a string of acclaimed albums, conjuring up the elegance and spark of Stan Getz and Zoot Sims. Robinson appears with Bill Le Sage on Thursday, the guitarist Howard Alden on Friday, and returns to Soho later in the month to spar with another guitar player, the mercurial Tal Farlow, who is himself in the middle of a tour.
Woods: **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 10 to Sat 15, support set from 9.30pm. *Robinson:* **Pizza Express**, Dean St, London W1 (0171-439 8722), Thur 13, Fri 14. Also Sat 22, Sun 23.

JIMMY MCGRIFF AND HANK CRAWFORD: Scarcely a month goes by without a visit from some grizzled Hammond organ veteran, recycling the soul-jazz grooves of the early 1960s. Jimmy McGriff and alto sax man Hank Crawford form one of the juiciest combinations of them all. A former musical director of the Ray Charles band, Crawford knows all about choreographing a rousing evening. Heavily laced with rhythm and blues, the vamps that he and McGriff cook up are calculated to cause outbreaks of finger-snapping among the most reserved audiences.
Ronnie Scott's, Broad St, Birmingham Ⓢ (0121-643 4525), Mon 10 to Sat 15; **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, London W1 (0171-439 0747), Mon 17 to Sat 22.

ROCK

David Sinclair

EMMYLOU HARRIS/TRISHA YEARWOOD/MARTY STUART: Subsidised by Vauxhall Motors to the tune of about £7 per ticket, this must be one of the biggest and best value-for-money country music package tours to visit Europe. The three main artists are each backed by their own bands which, in the case of country-rock crossover veteran Emmylou Harris, means her celebrated Hot Band featuring singer and guitarist Rodney Crowell, nowadays a star in his own right. Trisha Yearwood, a regular visitor to these shores, is currently ensconced at number one in the Billboard Country chart with her single, *Thinkin' About You*. And although as a solo act Marty Stuart is a relative newcomer to Britain (he was last seen here playing guitar and mandolin in Johnny Cash's band), he has notched up enough successes at home with songs such as *Little Things* and *Kiss Me, I'm Gone* to merit his own Greatest Hits album.
Kings Hall, Belfast Ⓢ (01232 665225), today; **Royal Concert Hall**, Glasgow Ⓢ (0141-332 6633), Fri 14; **Birmingham Symphony Hall** Ⓢ (0121-212 3333), Sat 15; **Albert Hall**, London SW7 Ⓢ (0171-589 8212), Sun 16.

BUSH: One of those strange success stories that buck all the trends, Bush were originally known as Future Primitive when they started out in London in 1992. Unknown and unloved, they changed their name and went to try their luck in America. At a time when British bands such as Suede and Blur have failed to make the slightest impression over there, Bush's debut album, *Sixteen Stone* — which remains unreleased in Britain — has just been certified gold (for sales of half a million copies). However if their debut single, *Everything Zen*, is anything to go by, it sounds as if Bush have been engaged in a coals-to-Newcastle exercise rather than spearheading any putative British invasion of the States. With the return of the conquering heroes, this is the first chance to see for ourselves what all the fuss is about.
Splash Club, The Water Rats, 238 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1 (0171-278 3879), Tue 11.

[illegible]

Benedict Nightingale

ONE FINE DAY: For the first half-hour all is Shirley Valentine-style laughter as Joe McGann's Liverpudlian ruefully talks of his life and loves. Then a false accusation of child abuse is made and, though the droll jokes continue, the mood inevitably darkens. In Dennis Lumborg's engrossing one-man play, a tricky, if timely, subject is handled with humanity and wry, resilient humour.
Albery, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (0171-369 1730). Evenings: Mon-Sat, 8pm; matinées: Sat, 5pm, Thur, 3pm.

TRAINSPOTTING: Not the cosy entertainment for the Rev Awdry's fans that the title implies, but a portrait of the city at the end of the East Coast line to make an anorak explode. Drugs, violence, four-letter words and black, black humour: Ian Brown's cast brings the underside of Edinburgh disturbingly but authentically to life.
Bush, Shepherds Bush Green, London W12 (0181-743 3388). Evenings: Mon-Sat, 8pm.

● *More theatre, page 6.*

[illegible]

John Percival

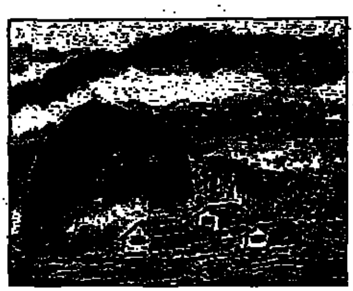
SWANSONG: Christopher Bruce's powerfully dramatic *Swansong*, a tremendous hit when he created it for the London Festival Ballet, enters the repertoire of the Rambert Dance Company which he now directs. For the first time in Britain it will have (as he long wanted) some performances where women play the victim and the guards, alternating with the original three man version. The premiere at Norwich shares a bill with Bruce's Rolling Stones ballet, *Rooster*, and Mark Baldwin's light-hearted *Banter Banter*.
Theatre Royal, Norwich (01603 630000), Wed 12, 8pm. Ⓢ

DIVERSIONS: This company from Cardiff brings a new programme to London, including work by the Catalan choreographer, Toni Mira, making his British debut. His *Remembrance*, which shows a man thinking about his past, is set to a mixture of jazz, folk music and an extract from *West Side Story*. The other two ballets given are by American choreographers: Daniel Ezralow's *Svsplkt*, which mixes music from the film *Blade Runner* with blues from Tom Waites, and Terry Beck's *Dig* to percussion music by Toshi Makihara.
Bloomsbury Theatre, Gordon St, London WC1 (0171-388 8822), Tue 11 and Wed 12, 7.30pm. Ⓢ

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

CONTEMPORARY CHINESE PAINTING: Well, only just. China seems to have a particular corner in artistic longevity, but even there the record of Zhu Qizhan would be hard to beat. Born in 1892, he lives among his by now very sizeable family in Shanghai and still paints every day. He has a one-man show coming up at home this year, but more unexpectedly is this curiously-titled show at the British Museum, which ranges over the latter part of his career from the 1930s on. After a period flirting with Western techniques such as oil painting, he returned to Chinese forms, and still paints landscapes and flowers in a fairly traditional style, but more and more abstracted.


Landscape by Zhu Qizhan

British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1 (0171-636 1555), Mon 10 to Sat 15, 10am-5pm; Sun, 2.30-6pm, until May 10. Ⓢ

THROUGH SWITZERLAND WITH TURNER: In 1857, John Ruskin selected a hundred watercolours by Turner to make up an imaginary tour from northern France down to Venice. All the work in the selection came from Turner's last travelling years, 1840-45, when his art was at its most free and most virtuosic. The intended show never took place, since Ruskin's planned publicity campaign on behalf of Turner moved too rapidly. He was immediately supported in it by the National Gallery, and took on many other projects related to the Turner Bequest while the initial choice of watercolours was dispersed. Now, finally, all the works in Ruskin's first catalogue have been identified and reunited for this show, which is accompanied by an edition of the Ruskin text (£14.95), with every work reproduced. Dazzling.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (0171-887 8008), Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm; Sun, 2-5.50pm, until May 7. Ⓢ

[illegible]

Richard Cork

TAKE ME (I'M YOURS): The Serpentine Gallery has never been more user-friendly. A mixed international show, organised by the young Swiss curator Hans Ulrich Obrist, tries to abolish all the stern restrictions which normally govern a visit to an art gallery. Viewers are encouraged to push, eat, sit on and even take away the exhibits. Devotees of old clothes will relish Christian Boltanski's roomful of discarded garments, all on offer to anybody who wants to sort through them. Franz West provides sofas for those who find the whole experience too tiring. But the main accent is on participation. Whether striding around on stilts, donning special gowns or entering a competition for a "blind dinner date" with the Scottish artist Douglas Gordon, the public will find a welcoming atmosphere throughout the show.
Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (0171-402 6075), until Apr 30. Ⓢ

POUSSIN: The great retrospective at the Royal Academy enters its final week, and must not be missed. I cannot imagine a finer overview of Poussin's paintings, filled with first-class images from collections all over Europe, Russia and the United States. The earliest rooms are surprisingly romantic and seductive, with Poussin at his most sensual paying open homage to Titian. Then Raphael's sterner influence comes into play. Poussin transforms himself into a more statuesque artist, but his inventiveness never flags, and the final large room filled with grand, innovative landscapes is a triumph.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (0171-439 7438), last day tomorrow. Ⓢ

CHILDREN

LONDON

Adventure Theatre: *Rainbow Umbrella* is being staged — whatever the weather.
Puppets and music at the Polka Theatre for Children, 240 The Broadway, Wimbledon SW1 (0181-543 4888). Today, 12.30pm, 2.30pm. Adults and children £3.50.

Join the Sports Trail and hunt for clues.
London Transport Museum, Covent Garden, WC2 (0171-379 6344). Also hands-on workshops and "Kids Question of Sport" quiz on Apr 22. Sports trail today from 10am. Adults £4.25, children £2.50. Ⓢ

Good Eatin': Puppet cartoon featuring the Junk Food Monster and the character, Spinner, who learns the importance of proper nutrition.
Science Museum, Exhibition Road, SW7 (0171-938 8008). Today, 2.45pm, 4.15pm (places limited). Adults £5, children £2.60.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Yogi Bear and the Magic Spaceman: Zorban the spaceman has to capture all the different animals in the world. All goes well until he meets Yogi . . .
Civic Centre, Aylesbury (01296 86009). Mon 10, 2pm. Adults and children, £4 (family of four, £14).

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Wombling Free: Join the Wombles for a clean-up and games as part of Tidy Britain Week. Suitable for age 3 and over.
Meet at the Visitor Centre, Hinchingbrooke Country Park, Huntingdon (01480 451568). Today at 10.30am. Children 15p, accompanying adults free. Ⓢ

DORSET

Hundreds of Bears dating from 1906.
Bournemouth Bears ExpoCentre, Old Christchurch Lane, Bournemouth (01305 269741). Open every day from 9.30am. Adults £3.50, children £2.25.

HEREFORD AND WORCESTER

Spring Steam Gala: Take a 70-minute train ride (each way).
Severn Valley Railway, Bewdley (01299 403816). Today, tomorrow from 9.15am. Adults £9.90, children £2. Limited facilities.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Stick Dressing Workshop: Learn to craft a walking stick complete with handle. Suitable for teenagers and over.
Plessey Woods Country Park, Bodlington (01670 824793). Today, 10am. Adults, children £12. Ⓢ

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Climb Into a Hastings transport aircraft and learn how the controls work.
Newark Air Museum, The Airfield, Winthorpe, Newark (01636 707170). Open every day from 10am-6pm. Adults £3.25, children £2. Ⓢ

SCOTLAND

Children's Activity Day: Help to produce your own children's mock television programme set in the 1800s. Bring your own period costume and packed lunch.
Bowhill House, Selkirk (01750 22326). Wed 12 from 9.30am. Children £1. Advance booking essential. Ⓢ

Tobermory of the Wombles (see Cambridgeshire)

YORKSHIRE

National Student Drama Festival: Workshops and drama productions for aspiring thespians.
Today, tomorrow and until Wed 12; various times, prices and venues in Scarborough. Tel: 01723 373333 for more information. Ⓢ

JANE BIDDER

Ruth Gledhill wakes early to visit the Lubavitch centre in Bournemouth, Dorset

AT YOUR SERVICE

A SERVICE at 6.45am on a Monday is few people's idea of fun, but the Jewish prayer book instructs devotees to strengthen themselves like lions, and arise in the early morning to render service to God.

In Bournemouth, where perhaps the exhilarating sea air comes to the aid of the early riser, this command is taken seriously. Within a few minutes, the ten men needed to make up a *minyan* were present, before a passage from the *Torah*, the first five books of the bible, can be read. They wore *tallit*, prayer shawls, and *tephillin*, small leather boxes containing four passages from the *Torah*, which were strapped to their arms and heads. All the men were young professionals or students, determined to retain their religious Jewish identity in an increasingly pluralist society.

One of the most effective movements to combat assimilation in Britain's 300,000-strong but dwindling Jewish community is the Lubavitch, founded in the 18th century in a town by the same name in what was then White Russia. Lubavitch, also known as Chabad, an acronymn in Hebrew for wisdom, understanding and knowledge, opened its British headquarters in Stamford Hill, north London, in 1959 and has since expanded into 14 centres around the country. Rabbi Yosef Alperowitz and his wife, Chana, who work as a team, direct the Bournemouth centre, founded six years ago, and now "reach out" to more than 1,000 families from both the Orthodox and Reform communities in the area. They have won excellence awards from the Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, for their youth and adult education programmes. The Lubavitch adhere strictly to *halakkah*, the body of Jewish civil and religious law, but lay particular emphasis on the spiritual dimension of Judaism. They see their task as communicating the moral and ethical values spelled out in the *Torah* to society beyond the Jewish community.

TONY WHITE

Rabbi Yosef Alperowitz delivering the morning service in Hebrew

In Orthodox Judaism, women pray separately from the men, and we were seated behind a wooden and net screen, but could follow the service, reading right to left, from the Hebrew, printed with an English translation.

Rabbi Alperowitz began with a prayer containing "laws relating to one's conduct upon rising in the morning". We heard that: "Immediately upon awakening, in order to be able to prevail over his evil inclination and rise quickly, a person should consider in whose presence he lies. He should be mindful that the Supreme King of Kings, the Holy One, Blessed be He, hovers over him." We should offer thanks to God even before washing our hands, and rise quickly, saying the words: "I offer thanks to you, loving and eternal King, for you have mercifully restrained my soul within me; your faithfulness is great." We had to be "extremely scrupulous" concerning the blessings of the *Torah*. It was forbidden to utter any words of *Torah* before the set blessings were recited.

Before *shacharit*, morning prayer, we had to say: "I hereby take upon myself to fulfil the *mitzvah* (command): love your fellow man as yourself (Lev 19:18)." The men prayed standing and out loud at first, but then went into whispers to aid concentration for the *Amidah* or 18 benedictions, the climax of the service, which began with the words: "O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall declare thy praise." The prayer book instructed us to pay attention to the meaning of the words, to be mindful of the fact that we stood before the *Shechina* (Divine Presence), and to remove all distracting thoughts and worries from our minds so that our minds and thoughts remained pure and concentrated upon the prayer.

Three men were called up by the Rabbi to read from Leviticus, and all joined in saying: "May he open our heart to his *Torah*, instill in our heart love and awe of him, and inspire us to do His will and serve Him with a perfect heart so that we shall not labour in vain, nor produce that which will cause dismay."

We ended with the prayer: "To your old age I am with you; to your hoary years I will sustain you; I have made you, and I will carry you; I will sustain and deliver you." This was a sustenance I needed to believe in, as the Rabbi delivered me into the rush hour traffic and the daily exodus out of the West to London.

Chabad Lubavitch, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Dorset. Tel: 01202 396615.

RABBI: Yosef Alperowitz.

ARCHITECTURE: Large, white, detached suburban house typical of Bournemouth's older seaside architecture, converted into Jewish centre with a seminary, accommodation, prayer room and club meeting rooms. ★★

LITURGY: Morning service in Hebrew from the Orthodox community's authorised daily prayer book. English translation provided. Beautiful and moving. ★★★★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Cup of tea amid preparations for Passover next week. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Strengthened sufficient to arise and face the morn. ★★★

★ *stars are awarded to a maximum of five.*

هكذا من الاصل

COVER STORY

Jonathan Sparke keeps a check on results at City Index, the company he launched with his partners in 1983. Punters can spread bet on the financial markets as well as sporting events

continued from page 1

the aggregate shirt numbers of the goalscorers, as well as the time at which the first goal is scored.

Today, at the Grand National, my near-total absence of racing knowledge is no impediment, for I can bet on the winning distance, for example, or on Master Oats *not* to win. And I can, on the first day of the cricket season next Thursday, bet on every run scored by Michael Atherton in April. Or not scored by Michael Atherton.

Uniquely, spread betting enables me to greet victory and defeat, those two imposters, and treat them both the same. Provided I have thought to bet on the right team/horse/person or even currency. Not *necessarily* the winning team/horse/person or currency.

It all began in 1980. Jonathan Sparke was with some friends at French racing's biggest day, the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe at Longchamp. If you know Longchamp, you know that you have to queue interminably at booths to place a bet. To hell with it, thought Sparke and his friends, so they devised, on the spot, a system of spread betting among themselves, where each took turns at quoting the aggregate racecard numbers of the first two horses past the post.

That defining example shows how spread betting works. The "spread" would be, say, 38 to 42. If you expect the number to be higher than 42, you "buy" at that figure. If you expect it to be lower, you "sell" at 38. So if you buy at 42, with, say, a £10 stake, and the aggregate is 47, you have won the difference between 42 and 47, which is five, multiplied by £10, which makes £50.

But if the aggregate is 30, you have lost the difference between 42 and 30, which is 12, multiplied by £10, which makes £120. Conversely, if you think the aggregate will be lower than 38, you "sell" at that figure: you lose if the real outcome is higher and win if it is lower. That is how I lost my £80. I thought that if Bolton were ever going to score, they would score first. But McManaman was working to another script. The spread principle applies whether it is racing, cricket, football, the FTSE Index, cocoa futures, gold, frankincense or myrrh.

Sparke and his business partners spent three years, post-Longchamp, refining their idea, until they launched City Index in 1983, the first of the current trio of British companies in this young business. Spread betting was not new in itself, and it is perhaps best known in Britain to followers of American Football, the gridiron game which, in its homeland, is talked about by millions of gamblers almost entirely in terms of the spread on a given match.

The British version of spread betting is very sophisticated and, indeed, Sparke is investigating a move to Las Vegas, as beautiful an example of coals to Newcastle as it would be possible to imagine.

Along with the bigger, more conventional gambling outlets, City Index is starting to appear on the sporting fields of England: on Wednesday last week, racing punters were able to gamble at Ascot on the City Index Market Leader's Novices Hurdle and the City Index Spread Betting Handicap Hurdle.

The striking thing about the headquarters of City Index is that it is very quiet. Unlike a betting shop, there is a distinct absence of clatter and a distinct presence of carpet. The customers are on the end of telephones, not bunched around the periphery, drawing on cigarettes.

Wembley is a mute flicker. In the dealing room, young men sit at screens recording bets and changing spreads depending on what is happening on the bank of a dozen television screens above them. It is all very low key, and yet it resembles a casino in cyberspace, a roulette table propelled by traffic on the information superhighway.

Next door, in his office, sits Sparke, 48, watchfully casual, taking in the match and talking to me. In spectacles, green sweater, grey flannels and suede shoes, he resembles an English schoolteacher.

He wasn't. He was a pupil at Charterhouse, but was thrown out over "something to do with the under-matron's daughter". His father was an amateur jockey and Sparke had acted as a minor bookmaker while still at school, driven by a fascination with form and odds. On train journeys he would set up gambles: solve three of the following five problems by the station after next.

After Charterhouse, Sparke mooched about for a bit, before getting a job as a computer programmer for BP and later for bookmakers Ladbrokes and Corals. "The trouble with traditional gambling is that it is win or lose, whereas with spread betting there are a plenty of opportunities to retrieve a situation," Sparke says.

There are also, it must be said, constant opportunities to lose a lot of money, for with a £10 bet on a horse in a betting shop you can only lose the stake, whereas in spread betting the loss, as well as the gain, can be much higher. "The more right you are, the more you win," as Sparke puts it, "and the more wrong you are, the more you lose."

'Traditional gambling is win or lose, whereas with spread betting there are plenty of opportunities to retrieve a situation'

Spread betting will undoubtedly earn a high profile via its sporting activities, but that side represents only about a third of the total turnover at City Index — around £80 million last year. A significant difference between City Index and most bookmakers is that City Index concentrates on betting on financial markets, offering daily spreads on the major stock exchange indices and on the currency and commodity markets.

Thus, City Index is not regulated by the gambling authorities but by the Securities and Futures Authority, which means, among other things, that, unlike other forms of gambling, spread betting debts are legally enforceable.

However, the Government is considering the deregulation of spread betting — a move that could encourage the Arthur Daleys of this world into this now strictly controlled area.

The mainstream bookmakers are sanguine but watchful over spread betting. "It's a very different product from ours, with limited appeal," says Ian Wassell, of Ladbroke Racing. "We know it's becoming popular but we have no plans to move into it."

Among City money-market tyros, spread betting has rapidly gained in popularity. Dealers often go home, or to City bars, and call up page 609 of Channel 4's Teletext (the use of which costs City Index £120,000 a year) to stake a slice of their commissions on a little extra-mural excitement.

City gamblers have also been known to call City Index on their mobile telephones from a golf course where they are following a big tournament. "The punter will know that one player is in a bunker but the other is six inches from the hole," Sparke says, "whereas we may not know that fast. So, a bet on that hole will be placed and there is nothing I can do about it."

These high rollers see spread betting as resembling derivatives trading, which brought Nick Leeson to the public's attention after the Barings affair, for gamblers are betting on the upward or downward future movement of stocks, currencies, commodities . . . and the scoring of the brat McManaman.

No amount of checks and balances can account for lucky clients, and there have been some spectacular wins. In 1986, City Index lost £1 million to a punter in one week when there was a sharp rise on Wall Street (the punter lost it all soon afterwards).

There was worse news for City Index in the stock market crash of 1987 when the company had a margin call of $8.5 million (£5 million) to cover the hedging positions of clients. Giddy stuff. But the real fun of spread betting lies in its sporting applications, at which point it is necessary to mention the dread word corruption, for it is natural to wonder, given the proliferation of ways in which you can bet on sport, whether this might lead participants into temptation.

There is, for example, the curious case of the magic sponge bet. This has now been abandoned by City Index, but at one stage it was possible to get a spread on when the physiotherapist, the man with the magic sponge, would first be called on to the pitch during a Premier League game. It is a fact that this bet became popular with certain players at one Premiership football club. It is a fact that one or two players at this club collected winnings by finding themselves in need of treatment at a stage in the game for which they had "bought" a position on the time they would need treatment. No doubt this was merest coincidence? Sparke looks back at me, unblinking: "Oh, no doubt. But we stopped doing it anyway."

Horse racing has never been without accusing voices, but nobbling a horse so that it wins or loses is risky and prone to being uncovered. But if you can bet, as you can, on the aggregate number of lengths by which the winners of six races at a meeting will actually win, then a jockey whose mount is 12 lengths clear near the end of race six but whose stable would prefer, for spread betting purposes, that he win by two lengths can ease up on his horse.

Does this happen? A famous trainer is mentioned, and a famous jockey. Sparke shrugs, then laughs. "We keep an eye on some of them."

But most of the punters, most of the time, are honest. City Index has 5,500 account holders, and employs 22 people. The average sporting bet is £500, and most days Sparke goes home smiling.

There is a nightmare scenario, though. "It's a football match in which there are a lot of goals scored by players wearing high shirt numbers," he says. "After a day like that, I'd be having to eat pasta for a long time . . ."

Cover concept by
DAVID DRIVER
Detail from "Casino at Monte Carlo" by
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How to make a winning spread bet this summer

WHAT IS the spread? A span of numbers, representing goals, runs, points, distances and so on, within which the company you bet with thinks the outcome will fall. You bet above or below the spread parameters and, if you are right, you win. Here are some ways you could bet this summer. The spreads and the amounts below are notional.

☐ GRAND National, today: Bet on how well or badly the favourites will do. City Index allocates favourites 25 points for coming first, ten for second and five for third. The spread for a six-race meeting might be 57 to 61. If you think the favourites will score better than 61, "buy" at that figure and, if you are right, you get £1 per point above 61. If you think they will score worse than 57, "sell" at that and, if you are right, you get £1 per point below 57.

☐ FA CUP semi-finals, tomorrow: City Index will offer a spread on the winners, the total goals in each match, total corners, aggregate shirt numbers of the scorers and the time of the first goal. In football, because the numbers are low, spreads are expressed in tenths of a goal. If the spread on Manchester United's game is 0.1 to 0.4, and you think United will beat Crystal Palace 2-0, you could bet £100 per whole goal (£10 per tenth) and win £160, which is arrived at thus: 2 (the winning margin) minus 0.4 (the level at which you bought) equals 1.6 goals, times your £100 stake, equals £160. If you bet on United and they lose 3-1, you lose £240: that is, 2 (the margin of defeat) plus 0.4 equals 2.4 goals, times your £100 stake, equals £240.

☐ CRICKET: You can bet on how many runs England will score in any innings in the Test series against the West Indies. If the spread is 300 to 320, and you think England will do better, "buy" England at 320 at £1 a run and, if they score 400, you win £80.

☐ OPEN GOLF: There is a good example from 1993, when City Index offered a spread of 276 to 277. If you had expected the winner to do better, that is, need fewer shots, you would have "sold" at 276. Greg Norman won with a course record 267. On a stake of £20 per shot, you would have won £180, the difference between 276 and 267 (nine shots) times your £20 stake.

☐ WIMBLEDON: City Index runs a Wimbledon 100 Index under which the winner is awarded 100 points, losing finalist 70, 50 to each losing semi-finalists, 33 to losing quarter-finalists and 20 to each of those eliminated after reaching the last 16. If the spread for Goran Ivanisevic was to be 37 to 40 but you think he is certain to reach the semis, you buy at 40 for, say, £20 a point. If you are right, you can win £300 if he reaches the semis, up to £1,800 if he is men's champion. Lesson: in 1987, a client of City Index gambled £120,000 on Boris Becker to win. Becker went out in round one.

● *City Index, 23 Thomas More St, London E1 (0171-528 9887); Sporting Index, Milverton St, London SE11 (0171-820 9789); I.G. Index, 1 Warwick Row, London SE1 (0500 911911).*

● *Play the casinos in Nevada, page 17*

Boris Becker's Wimbledon loss cost a punter £120,000

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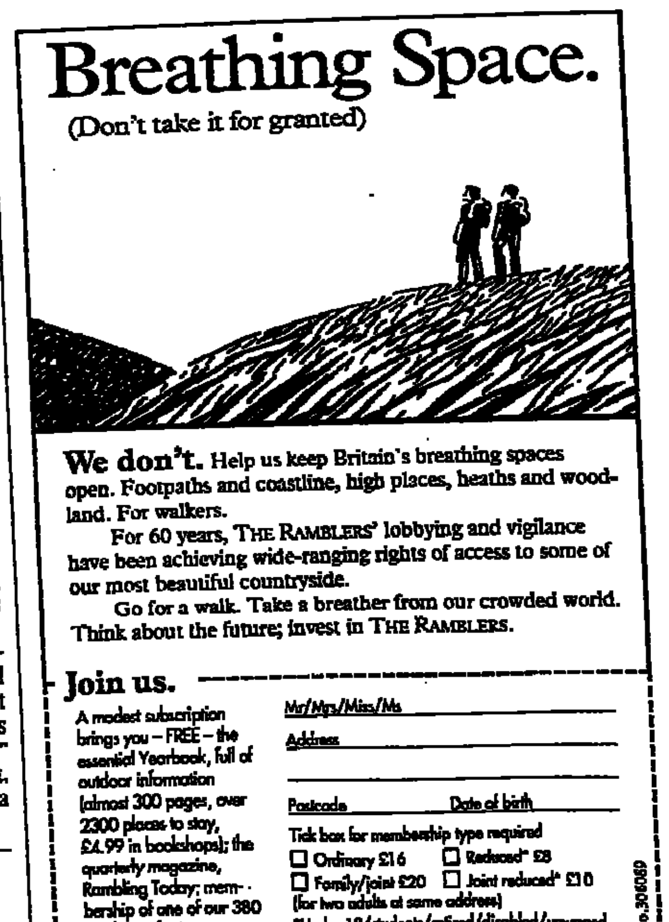

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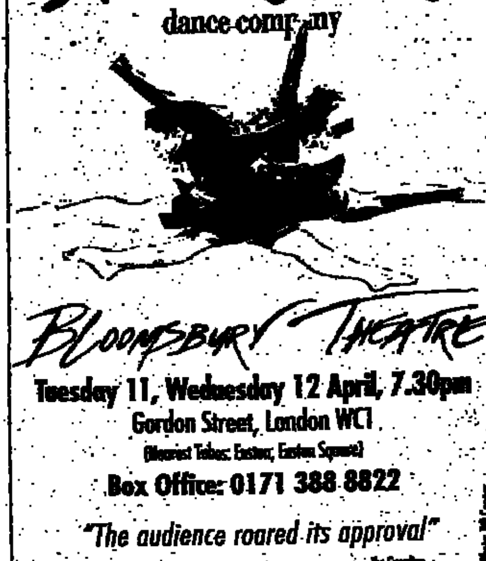

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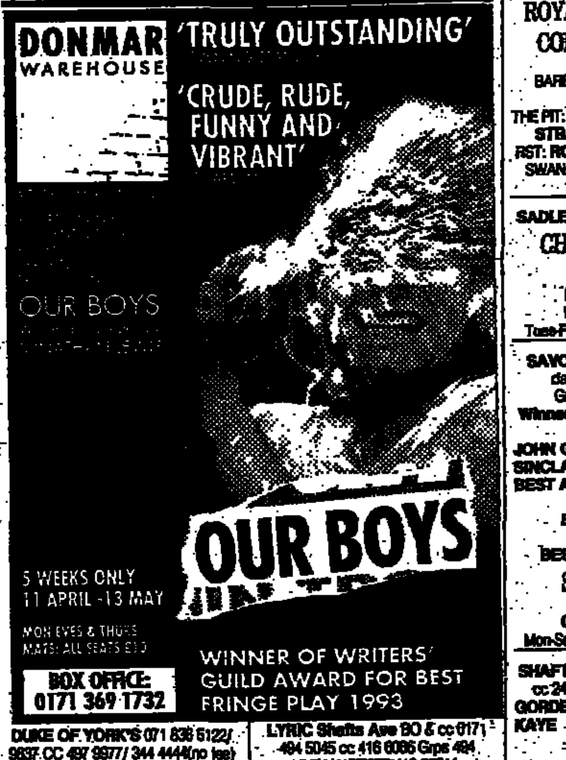

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Fri 14 Apr 6.00	LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY Handel Messiah. The Hanover Band, Jane Glover (cond) Susan Gritton (sop) Ruby Philogene (con) Barry Banks (ten) Peter Snipp (bass) £25, £22.50, £20, £16, £12, £8, £4 *LCS
	QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL
Sat 8 Apr 7.45	EVELYN GLENNIE/BOURNEMOUTH SINFONIETTA T Vásáry (cond) I Jones. Beethoven Ov, Egmont; Pärt Fratres; *Moreno-Buendia Concierto Classico (marimba & harp)*; Jolivet Perc Conc; Mendelssohn Scottish Sym. £18, £16, £14, £12, £8*BO
Sun 9 Apr 3.00	ANDREAS HAEFLIGER International Piano Series Beethoven Sonata, Op.2 No.1; Schubert 4 Impromptus, D.935; Mussorgsky Pictures at an Exhibition £12, £9, £6 Harrison/Parrott Ltd*SBC
Sun 9 Apr 7.45	MEDITERRANEAN MELODIES with Delia Jones Songs & Piano solos from Italy, France & Spain sung by Delia Jones (mezzo) and played by Alberto Portuheis (piano) £18.50, £15, £13, £10, £7.50 Sunlight Institute Foundation Appeal
Mon 10 Apr 7.45	CARMINA QUARTET, ANDREAS HAEFLIGER (pno) Beethoven String Quartet in F minor, Op.95; Debussy String Quartet; Brahms Piano Quartet in G minor, Op.25 £15, £13, £9.50, £6 Intermusica Artists' Mgt Ltd*SBC
Tue 11 Apr 7.45	BACH: ST JOHN PASSION London Orpheus Choir & Orchestra, James Gaddarn (cond) J Morgan, W Evans, J Tait, P Kusel, M Goldthorpe, S Birchall, L Pearson, J Birch, E McCarthy, A Bears. £18, £16, £14, £13, £11 *LOC
Fri 14 Apr 7.15	PULSATING LIVIN' RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD Louis Moholo's Freedom Drum Orchestra, Clifford Jarvis' Rhythms of the Gods, Afro Drum Ensemble. The journey of the drum from Africa to the rest of the world. £12.50, £10.50 Joyful Noise

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UNTIL 6 MAY

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ROBERT GLENISTER
THE DUCHESS OF MALFI
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Evening Standard Awards 1994
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FRANCES DE LA TOUR
ANASTASIA HILLE
EDWARD ALBEE'S
THREE TALL WOMEN
Directed by ANTHONY PAGE
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OPERA NORTH

هكذا من الأصل

Kaufmania grips the nation again

To our great national celebrations — Christmas; the England cricket team hanging on for a draw; the ritual humiliation of a politician caught with his trousers down in the wrong bedroom — I propose that we add a new springtime holiday. It would be called Kaufmania, and celebrate the Annual Indignation of Gerald Kaufman, MP.

For I have noticed an odd thing. Our hero and his merry band of MPs on the House of Commons Heritage Committee are at their sprightliest at this time of year. Perhaps they are auditioning to be the first cuckoos of spring.

In April 1993, you may recall, they hauled in a lot of hapless record-company executives and harangued them about the price of compact discs. The result? Precisely nowt. CDs are just as "expensive" (or "reasonable", depending on whether you buy or sell them) as they were before Chairman Gerald erupted.

Last year, the "£450 million scandal" of the new British Library was the target of the Kaufman spring offensive. "A cultural ground nuts scheme," fumed Chairman Gerald, and he was basically right. But once again, Kaufmania worked its magic. After 48 hours of media froth, the British Library debacle disappeared from public consciousness, and will probably not surface again until the bill has reached several billion pounds and the damn thing is still not built.

You will by now have grasped the concept. It is called noisy impotence. Kaufmania strikes, a nation trembles .... and absolutely nothing changes. So I leave it to you to imagine the consequences of this year's Kaufmania, which was unleashed this week. It is his committee's 100-page report on the British film industry, which comes replete with obligatory photograph of Hugh Grant and a bizarre 10,000-word "personal memoir" by Roy Boulting.

Back in the autumn, Chairman Gerald and committee went off on an amazing five-day junket — sorry, "fact-finding mission" — to Hollywood. Estimated cost to taxpayers: £25,000. At the time, some unkind souls suggested that Gerald had dreamed up the wheeze of a report about our film industry simply to combine the two recreations he lists in *Who's Who*: travel and "going to the pictures".

I am not one of those shameless cynics. As his report assures us, the Hollywood trip was "essential". The report continues: "That leading figures of Hollywood's film industry were prepared to give so generously of their time and expertise was an acknowledgement of the significance which they attached to the Committee's visit." But of course.

WEEK IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

Samuel Goldwyn Jr thought about little else for weeks before Chairman Gerald appeared.

But what can one say about the committee's final recommendations? Quite honestly, they are so dreary that most of the nation's newsrooms took one look at them and consigned them to the bin.

London must have its own Film Commission, says Gerald, so that directors can shoot a car-chase in, say, Bromley, without needing to deal with 27 different town-hall departments. Agreed. The Inland Revenue, says Gerald, must ease up on the "withholding tax" that discourages Hollywood stars from working here. Agreed, albeit reluctantly (one hates to make life even easier for the super-rich). Accelerated tax write-offs, says Gerald, should be introduced for film companies. Agreed, agreed, agreed. Yawn, yawn, yawn.

Don't get me wrong. These are all good notions. But coming as the climax of a 100-page report, representing thousands of hours of work by our elected representatives, they do not exactly dazzle with their flair. Where is the Big Idea? Where are any Original Thoughts? Chairman Gerald may love going to the movies, but here he has missed the Big Picture.

Which is? First, the very idea of a *British* film industry surely belongs to the era of Gerald's beloved *Lavender Hill Mob*. The big players in the entertainment industry now are multinational, not national. Even Hollywood has had a "foreign" invasion — or didn't Gerald notice?

Second, there is strong evidence for claiming that in 20 years' time nobody will go to cinemas. We are almost there now. Cinema admissions in Britain, standing at 1,396 million a year in 1950, are now at 124 million. The whole trend of the "information superhighway" is towards small formats piped directly into the home. Yet Kaufman and comrades hardly mention the huge changes — CD-Rom, compact-disc video, the Internet — that are already transforming notions of "screen" entertainment.

The irony is that Britain — which still leads the world in quality English-language television, and has a number of excellent telecommunications companies — is actually better placed than America or Japan to seize the initiative in this revolution. But not if our elected representatives get distracted into lamenting the demise of the Ealing comedy. They are decades behind the game.

Still, this is the season of Kaufmania and goodwill, so let's not get too serious. What next for Chairman Gerald and his pals? A searching report on the British restaurant trade, perhaps, including a gruelling, fact-finding fortnight in Paris? I do hope so. In our grey world there is still a place for madcap, escapist entertainment — and when we read the reports of the Heritage Committee we certainly get exactly that.

Heavyweight anti-hero

OPERA: **John Higgins** meets Ben Heppner, the late-starter chosen to be Covent Garden's new Peter Grimes

The Canadian tenor Ben Heppner is the man Covent Garden has chosen for the title role of *Peter Grimes* in the fiftieth anniversary run which opens today. Britten's opera had its premiere at Sadler's Wells on June 7, 1945. Heppner has already sung the part in London at a pair of concert performances conducted by Rostropovitch at the Barbican just over two years ago and also, on stage, in Cologne and this season in Vancouver. The Vancouver staging was pretty conventional, according to Heppner, but the other "was one of those typically Germanic black-box affairs". Elijah Moshinsky's *Grimes* at the Opera House is generally reckoned to be austere, but compared with Cologne, in Heppner's words, "it fairly reeks of fish".

Heppner made his debut as that rarity, a fully fledged heroic tenor, less than eight years ago with the Victoria State Opera, Australia, as Bacchus in *Ariadne auf Naxos*. Looking back, he thinks the performance was not bad: "Good enough, anyhow, to bring in offers of work which were vital". They certainly were. He was already 31 and needed to move quickly. Since then, the rise has been very fast but, as a Heldentenor, he has, reasonably enough, been engaged to sing blond heroes, mainly Wagnerian. So does Grimes come as a shock?

"Not altogether. I have sung one other anti-hero, the title role in William Bolcom's *McTeague*." The opera, which was premiered to considerable acclaim in Chicago in 1992, was based on the Frank Norris novel which also provided Erich von Stroheim with the material for his famous silent movie, *Greed*. Chicago also engaged a film director, Robert Altman, to stage it. Heppner sang the dim-witted dentist who gets struck off for immoral behaviour after administering an anaesthetic and Catherine Malfitano was his sharp-tongued wife. How did he get this role?

"One of my friends was asked that and replied, 'Well, Chicago was looking for a large and stupid tenor so it hired Ben'. But it wasn't quite like that. Back in 1987, I auditioned for Chicago and was offerred a small role in *Tannhäuser* the next season and it also said it had this opera called *McTeague* coming along. Five years and many rewrites later it happened." And working with Altman? "He brought a Hollywood freshness and speed to things. On the first day he gave a 15-minute talk on his concept of the piece and then asked if there were any questions. There weren't — I guess we were all a bit afraid of him. So he said, 'Let's go'. The music started. And we went.

> ‘Chicago was looking for a large and stupid tenor’

"In some ways I see Grimes and McTeague as opposites. Grimes begins as the villain, at least in the eyes of the townsfolk, but I hope that by the end the audience has some sympathy for his plight. McTeague is an ordinary man at the start but veers off into crime and murder."

Heppner's own life changed when he was 30 and a voice teacher advised him to stop trying to be a lyric tenor and "to sing his weight", which is substantial. Within six months the voice was reborn. At college Heppner had studied instruments ranging from the trumpet to the bass tuba before being encouraged to switch to singing. But years with the Canadian Opera Company led nowhere. In 1987 the "reborn" and still impoverished Heppner entered the Metropolitan Opera's annual singing competition.

"When I got home I cracked to the kids, 'If the Met calls, tell them I'm out'. Two hours later my son shouted, 'Hey, Dad, it's the Met'. I came running." Heppner's career had begun.

His most famous role to date has been Walther von Stolzing in *Meistersinger*, in which part he made an unexpected debut at Covent Garden five years ago almost to the day. "I was understudying Reiner Goldberg and at the same time taking a German course here at the Goethe Institute. Some presentiment made me leave a list of my movements with the stage-door staff. A pure hunch. I was called to go on suddenly in Act II. Somehow they managed to find a costume to fit me. But I had never before met the Eva, Felicity Lott. There was plenty to talk about under that linden tree when we weren't singing. Shoes, though, were a problem, but they found those too by the third act, and I was able to spring down the staircase to greet Eva."

It was as Walther that Ben Heppner made his Scala debut the same year with Sawallisch conducting and this led to the *Meistersinger* recording, which quite a lot of critics reckoned the best opera set of last year. How much guidance did Sawallisch provide? "At La Scala, very little. After a couple of rehearsals he had said nothing, so I went up to him and muttered, 'Excuse me, maestro, but is it all right?' He took me by the hand and replied, 'Mein lieber Ben, you just make the most beautiful music you can'."

A number of further recordings are awaiting release: *Lohengrin*, *Der fliegende Holländer*, *Herodiade* and a disc of Strauss arias. Next year Heppner makes a rare move into Italian opera when he sings *Pagliacci* in Toronto, the first time since 1988 that he has appeared in the town which is now his home. One future step must surely be Otello, one of the best known roles of his compatriot, Jon Vickers. "It's been suggested many times, but I don't think I'm ready for it yet. How can you sing Otello when you haven't done Manrico, Radames or all the other Verdi roles? Inevitably I was dubbed the new Jon Vickers, and I guess he'll be casting quite a long shadow on Saturday night." But not quite as large a one as the bulky Heppner or the equally chunky Bryn Terfel as Bulstrode. Covent Garden's carpenters had better make the floorboards secure.

● Peter Grimes *opens at the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, tonight at 7.30pm (0171-304 4000).*

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Better late than never: Ben Heppner was already 31 when he made his singing debut

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

THOMAS LANG

Age: 24

Profession: Singer-songwriter

Could you be more specific? "The bastard son of Cole Porter and Edith Piaf, raised in Liverpool by David Lynch," one critic wrote. "He goes for the feeling in a song, communicates it to us as if he and we need it to survive," says DJ Paul Gambaccini.

Phew! He's good then? Absolutely. Check out *Covers*, a new album of songs made famous by other people. Cracking versions of the soul classics *Love T.K.O.* and *(If Loving You Is Wrong) I Don't Want To Be Right*, as well as titles by Rodgers and Hart, Tom Waits and Stevie Wonder.

Sounds great. Where do we get it? That is the problem. It was commissioned by Nippon Columbia — Lang is "big in Japan" — and he retains the British rights. Just now, he is looking for a company who will release it in Britain.

Is there anything of his we can listen to meanwhile? Epic Records put out two albums, the excellent *Scallywag Jaz* and *Little Moscow*, while his own independent label, Dry Communications, released *The Lost Letter Z* and a compilation, *Outside Over There* (DRYCCD15), still available via BMG. And that is him singing the jazzy *Just Let Love Through*, the theme to the new Brit-movie *Solitaire For 2*.

What else is he up to? Well, composer Colin Reilly approached him with regard to a commission from North-West Arts, so Lang has been recording with the Smith Quartet. Plus, he is collaborating with fellow writer John Uriel on a collection of new, less formulaic or pop-orientated songs.

Heroes? "I admire those who don't compromise but just follow their own musical ideals and to hell with the consequences: Tom Waits, Kate Bush, the Blue Nile."

Ambitious? "My main motivation is to stay alive in music. But to dream of being given a nine-LP deal would be naive and childish — you'd need to be either massively successful already or totally new and malleable."

Liverpool? Pertinent? Discuss. "I'm a product of a large working-class family, which has given me strength. As to this city, you either dream of being a footballer or a singer, and I was always crap at football."

ALAN JACKSON

THE SUNDAY TIMES

‘He is a master practitioner of a skill now sadly rare in English literature, the extended essay. He seduces you with a low-key anecdote, goes on to engage with subject matter that is by turns profound, silly and provocative . . . You feel like a truffle-hunting pig which has had a particularly satisfying morning.’

Jeremy Paxman reviews Letters From London – by Julian Barnes in The Sunday Times tomorrow

CONCERT: In praise of diversity

A tonic mixture

English Concert
St John's
Smith Square

THE English Concert's programme at St John's Smith Square on Tuesday evening was a skilful mixture of familiar and unfamiliar that drew fresh, committed performances from players who would doubtless have found it more difficult to respond to the merely hackneyed.

The second half traced a delightful arc, from the intimate B minor Sinfonia *Al Santo Sepulcro* (RV 169) by Vivaldi, to the same composer's more extrovert Sinfonia in G major (RV 149), through Handel's gloriously accomplished Concerto Grosso in B minor, Op 6, No 12, to end with a touch of brilliance in the form of Friederich Fasch's *Concerto* in D major for two horns, two oboes, two bassoons and strings.

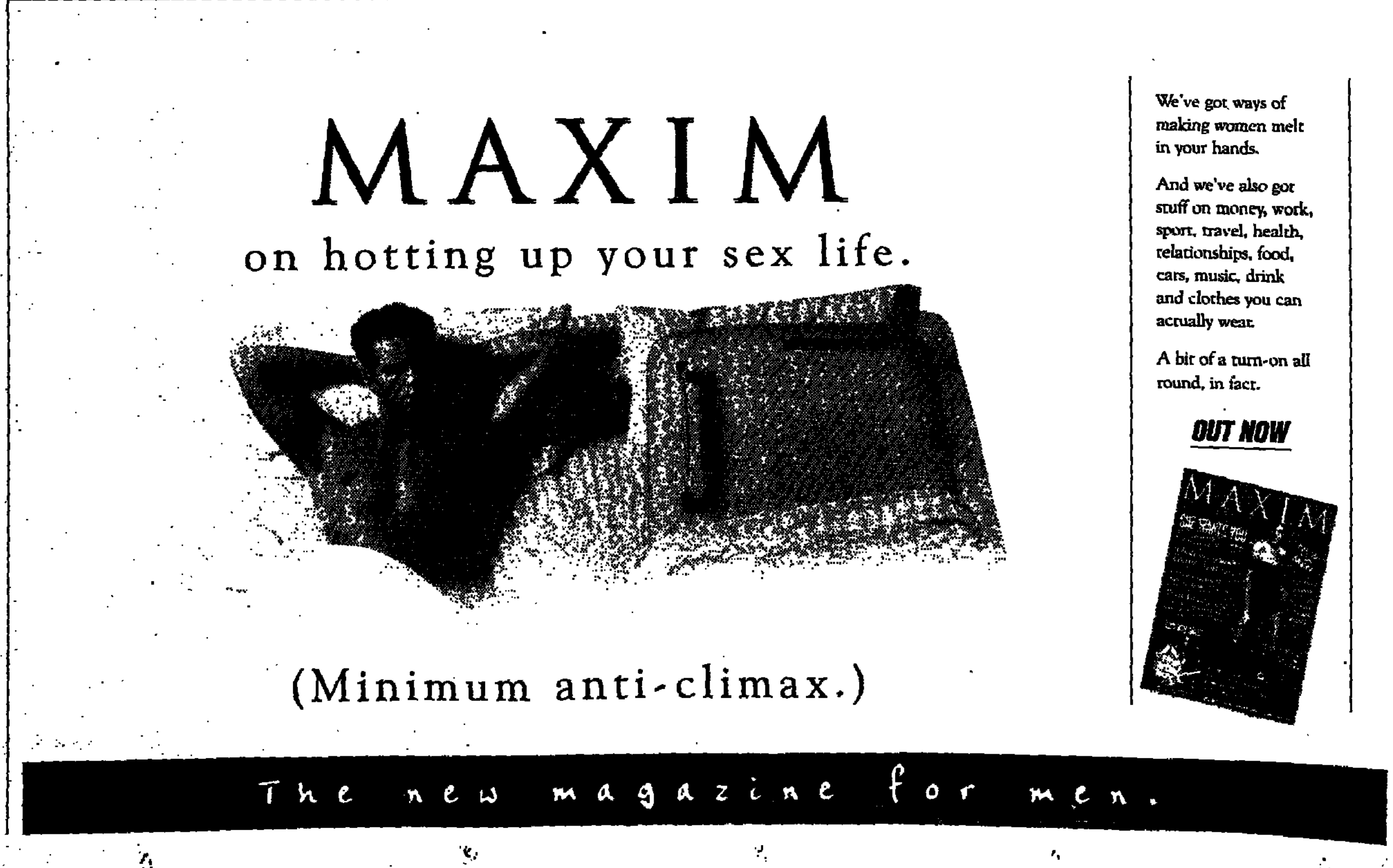
The contrasting atmospheres of the two Vivaldi pieces were admirably delineated by Trevor Pinnock and his players. There were high spirits, too, in the fast movements of the Handel concerto, but also eloquence in the two Largos and some expressive phrasing in the moving bass of the Larghetto's variation.

The varied concertante instruments of the Fasch brought the proceedings to a close with a wonderful splash of colour. The hazardous parts for natural horns were negotiated by Andrew Clark and Christian Rutherford, who were joined by equally fine soloists on the oboe (Paul Goodwin and Lorraine Wood) and bassoon (Alberto Grazzi and Sally Jackson). And just as one was wondering whether it was wise to end on such a note, we were offered two encores from the less perilous *Water Music* of Handel.

In the first half, familiar sounds came in an unfamiliar guise when the *Sinfonia* to Bach's Cantata BWV 52 turned out to be the first movement of the First Brandenburg Concerto. Michael Chance was the excellent countertenor soloist in Vivaldi's *Stabat Mater* RV 621.

Pinnock himself was the soloist in Handel's Organ Concerto in D minor, Op 7, No 4, crisply delivered by organist and ensemble alike, with some stylish improvisatory figures in the passages marked by the composer "ad libitum".

BARRY MILLINGTON



MAXIM

on hotting up your sex life.

(Minimum anti-climax.)

The new magazine for men.

We've got ways of making women melt in your hands.

And we've also got stuff on money, work, sport, travel, health, relationships, food, cars, music, drink and clothes you can actually wear.

A bit of a turn-on all round, in fact.

OUT NOW

ARTS

WEST END ENTERTAINMENT

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ **House full, returns only**
◩ **Some seats available**
☐ **Seats at all prices**

■ **AFTER EASTER**: Religious visions precipitate a Catholic Ulster woman's breakdown in Anne Devlin's only intermittently moving drama. With Stella Gonet.
Pit, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Apr 15, 7.15pm; mat Apr 15, 2pm. Then in rep. Ⓢ

◩ **AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'**: Exhilaratin' song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on feet.
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

☐ **ALBERTINE IN FIVE TIMES**: Michel Tremblay's fascinating portrayal of a woman at different stages of her life. Miriam Karlin among the cast of five. Madeleine Wynn directs for Zenana Theatre Co.
Bridewell, Bride Lane (off Fleet St), EC4 (0171-936 3456). Mon-Sat, 7.15pm

◩ **BROKEN GLASS**: Arthur Miller's masterly drama, distilling his lifelong concern with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margot Leicester superb as the central Jewish couple.
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

☐ **CHERYOMUSHKI**: The return of this funny musical comedy by Shostakovich, set on "Cherry Tree Estate", a coveted escape-hole for upwardly mobile Muscovites. An evening of merriment from Pimlico Opera.
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. Final week. Ⓢ

☐ **DANGEROUS CORNER**: Keith Baxter directs an excellent cast in Priestley's psychological thriller about the grey areas in people's lives it is wiser not to probe into.
Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 (0171-369 1735). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◩ **DESIGN FOR LIVING**: Rachel Weisz, Rupert Graves and Marcus D'Amico in Coward's *menage à trois* comedy. Sean Mathias's award-winner, with even more sexual rough and tumble than at the Donmar.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm. Ⓢ

☐ **GEORGE DANDIN**: Red Shift bring in Molière's tart comedy about a lady's deception of her low-born husband. Jonathan Holloway directs. Ranjit Bolt translates.
Cochrane, Southampton Row, WC1 (0171-242 7040). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Apr 27, 2pm. Until Apr 29.

☐ **IF WE ARE WOMEN**: Richard Olivier directs Joan Plowright and Diana Quick in a play by Canadian Joanna McClelland Glass: three generations of women come together after a death and deal with their past.
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm. Until Apr 29 Ⓢ

☐ ***IN PRAISE OF LOVE***: Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in Rattigan drama about bravely facing death. Interesting and finally touching as it shows the effects, ill and good, of emotional restraint.
Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◩ **INDIAN INK**: Felicity Kendal, Art Malik and Margaret Tyzack in Tom Stoppard's latest, wittily, poignantly, exploring aspects of Anglo-Indian resentments and respect.
Aldwych, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-416 6003). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **KILLER JOE**: Utterly absorbing shock-drama by Tracy Letts where a trash-trailer family virtually annihilates itself by employing a hit-man to kill their unwanted Mom. Wilson Milam directs.
Vaudeville, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 9987). Mon-Sat, 8pm.

☐ **THE LIVE BED SHOW**: Arthur Smith's revised version of his 1989 Edinburgh Festival comedy: Caroline Quentin and Paul Merton play a couple on their journey towards sharing a bed.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 5085). Mon-Thurs, 8pm; Fri and Sat, 6.30pm and 8.45pm.

■ **THE STEWARD OF CHRISTENDOM**: Superb performance by Donal McCann as the last Catholic head of Dublin's police under British rule, raking over memories of public and family disappointment. Sebastian Barry's exceptionally moving play.
Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 2554). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, 4pm. Until Apr 22.

■ **UNCLE VANYA**: Field Day's new version, with Stephen Rea in the title role. Hopefully, the production (by Peter Gill) has firmed up since its Derry premiere.
Tricycle, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000). Now previewing, 8pm; opens Mon, 7pm. Until Apr 29. Ⓢ

◩ **UNDER MILK WOOD**: Roger Michell directs Dylan Thomas's justly celebrated evocation of the little town of Llareggub.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.15pm; opens Apr 13, 7pm Ⓢ

☐ **UP'N'UNDER**: John Godber's rugby play, done by Hull Truck. Enthusiastic 'n' simple. Leave your brains in the changing room.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm Ⓢ

☐ ***A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE***: David Thacker's production, acclaimed in Bristol and Birmingham. Bernard Hill superb as the NY longshoreman consumed by unspeakable love for his niece.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800). Tue-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Thurs, 2pm, Sat and Sun, 3pm

◩ **THE WINTER GUEST**: Phyllida Law and Sian Thomas head Alan Rickman's sensitively directed cast in Sharman Macdonald's fine play about loss, survival, the perils and joys of life.
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 4pm Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

◩ **Arcadia**: Haymarket (0171-930 8800) . . ◩ **Blood Brothers**: Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ■ **Copacabana**: Prince of Wales (0171-839 5972) . . ■ **Crazy for You**: Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . ■ **Grease**: Dominion (0171-416 6060) . . ■ **Les Misérables**: Palace (0171-434 0909) . . ◩ **Mama I Want to Sing**: Cambridge (0171-494 5080) . . ◩ **My Night With Reg**: Criterion (0171-839 4488) . . ■ **Oliver!**: Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . ◩ **A Passionate Woman**: Comedy (0171-369 1731) . . ■ **The Phantom of the Opera**: Her Majesty's (0171-494 5400) . . ☐ **She Loves Me**: Savoy (0171-836 8888) . . ■ **Starlight Express**: Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard**: Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . . ■ **Three Tall Women**: Wyndhams (0171-369 1736) . . ◩ **The Woman in Black**: Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE** (15): A teenager's post-war theatre experiences. Fascinating abrasive drama from Beryl Bainbridge's novel. Mike Newell directs Alan Rickman, Hugh Grant and newcomer Georgina Cates.
MGMs: Fulham Road Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

BLUE SKY (12): Modest film with an Oscar-winning performance by Jessica Lange as an army officer's sexy wife. Director, Tony Richardson.
NFT (071-928 3232)

◆ **DUMB & DUMBER** (12): See Critics' Choice, page 2.

◆ **FAR FROM HOME** (U): Apple-cheeked family film about a boy and his dog trekking home from a boatwreck. Director, Philip Borsos.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

LITTLE BIG LEAGUE (PG): A 12 year-old manages a baseball team. Dull, insanely long comedy, with Luke Edwards and Timothy Busfield. Director, Andrew Scheinman.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

◆ **ONE HUNDRED AND ONE DALMATIANS** (U): Disney's pleasant, witty cartoon version of Dodie Smith's book about endangered puppies, first released in 1961.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

POSTCARDS FROM AMERICA (18): Eye-grabbing fantasia on the life and writings of combative gay artist David Wojnarowicz. Director, Steve McLean.
ICA Ⓢ (0171-930 3647)

◆ **TERMINAL VELOCITY** (15): Sky-diver Charlie Sheen tangles with Nastassja Kinski in a dim-witted thriller with a few good stunts. Director, Deran Sarafian.
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

CURRENT

◆ **ANDRE**: Adventures of an orphaned seal. Well-packaged family film with Keith Carradine, Tina Majorino and a scene-stealing sea lion.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

CROOKLYN (12): Spike Lee's rowdy, rose-tinted memories of a Brooklyn childhood. With Alfre Woodard, Delroy Lindo and Zelda Harris.
Electric Ⓢ Today only (071-792 2020) **MGM Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

◆ **DISCLOSURE** (18): Michael Douglas says no to Demi Moore. Superficially enjoyable version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **DROP ZONE** (15): Wesley Snipes goes undercover to catch sky-diving criminals. Good aerial stunts, otherwise, an empty action thriller. With Yancy Butler and Gary Busey.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0800 888997) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

FIORILE (12): Generations of a Tuscan family are dogged by greed. Beguiling epic from the Taviani brothers.
Everyman Ⓢ (071-435 1525) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Minema** (071-235 4225)

◆ **IMMORTAL BELOVED** (15): Gary Oldman is Beethoven, but the film still ends up worthy and dull. With Jeroen Krabbe and Isabella Rossellini, writer-director, Bernard Rose.
Empire (0800 888911) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636)

◆ **JUST CAUSE** (18): Harvard law professor Sean Connery wrestles with a murder case in Florida. Ludicrous investigative thriller, with Laurence Fishburne. Director, Arne Glimcher.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **LITTLE WOMEN** (U): Fresh, tender, feminist version of the 19th-century classic, with Winona Ryder, Susan Sarandon, and Gabriel Byrne. Director, Gillian Armstrong.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by stage director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **Lumiere** (0171-836 0691) **MGMs: Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (01426 914666) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

MRS. PARKER AND THE VICIOUS CIRCLE (15): Alan Rudolph's melancholy and witty portrait of Dorothy Parker and her era. Compelling performances from Jennifer Jason Leigh and a well-chosen cast.
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

◆ **NATURAL BORN KILLERS** (18): Warped lovers embark on a shooting rampage, with the media in pursuit. Wearisome excess from director Oliver Stone, with Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis.
Warner Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **NELL** (12): Doctor Liam Neeson nurtures backwoods wild child Jodie Foster. Well acted, well meant; but glutinous. Director, Michael Apted.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683)

NOBODY'S FOOL (15): Endearing slice of small-town Americana, with Paul Newman, Melanie Griffith, Bruce Willis and Jessica Tandy. Writer-director, Robert Benton.
Odeon West End (01426-915 574)

◆ **QUIZ SHOW** (15): Director Robert Redford resurrects a TV scandal of the late 1950s. Fine performances (John Turturro, Ralph Fiennes, Paul Scofield), but not enough bite, or relevance.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE RIVER WILD** (12): Criminals imperil a family on their white water rafting holiday. Enjoyable action thriller with Meryl Streep and Kevin Bacon.
Plaza (0800 888997)

SHALLOW GRAVE (18): Wickedly enjoyable comedy-thriller about three Edinburgh chums and a corpse loaded with money. Danny Boyle directs.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington**, today only (01426 914666)

◆ **THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION**: How to survive long decades in prison. Engrossing drama with Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman. Director, Frank Darabont.
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Plaza** (0800 888997)

STARGATE (PG): Galactic adventures of Kurt Russell and James Spader. Preposterous, derivative but fun. Roland Emmerich directs.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031)

A striking match of skills

Music, dance and drama are all on the syllabus at the Oxford Youth Music Theatre, says **Hilary Finch**

ADRIAN BROOKS

The Oxford Youth Music Theatre rehearsing its 1995 annual show, *The Matchgirls*

YOUNG AT art

A raspberry-sorbet lip salve flies through the air. Three pairs of Doc Martens leap and land with a thump. "You don't expect *The Times* to get excited about working conditions, do you?" the indignant question rings out passionately from a small frame with huge lungs. Annie Besant, social reformer and campaigner for women's rights, is confronting George Bernard Shaw in the office of the Free Thought Bookshop. It is 1888: the employees of Bryant & May are about to go on strike, and the question is whether or not to drag in the media.

Oxfordshire Youth Music Theatre are on their penultimate rehearsal for tonight's performance of *The Matchgirls*, and Bryant & May (which happens to be closing down its last factory in England) has donated 1,500 boxes of England's Glory to the production. On condition, that is, that the end of each match is burnt off before being used on stage.

A century ago, it was the tip that did all the damage. "Phossy jaw" was the name given to the cancer which spread from tooth and tongue to jaw, throat and oesophagus, caused by breathing in the phosphorus-filled air of the factory floor. Those East End matchgirls who stayed alive had their wages docked if they had dirty feet, if they dropped litter, if they talked. There was an excess of labour and piecework at home was becoming more and more cost-effective.

The story of the matchgirls' two-week strike and march on Parliament, a catalyst for the dockers' strike of 1889, still inflames young hearts. "We're gonna show them. They're gonna get a surprise!" Consonants and semiquavers are spat out, 50 voices are hurled from deep in the chest, sequences form and re-form with impressive rapidity. Already within ten minutes, a remarkable range of stage skills is on display: many of these hardened 14 to 18-year-old thespians have been stomping the boards since they were eight.

The group, culled from every comprehensive and private school in the county, is fed from the South Oxfordshire Young Singers (8-11) and the South Oxfordshire Music and Dance Group (11-14) and nourished by the combined talents of local Lamda-trained dance teacher Judy Tompsett, and composer and advisory music teacher Lin Marsh. Marsh has just been to Bermuda to write a music-theatre piece on the role of women within the island's colonial history for the centenary of its high school.

Tompsett gets everyone learning how to move from an early age, how to turn, transfer weight, become conscious of space; and later how to work in small groups, and how to *touch* — essential for squirm-free love scenes and convincing brawls. Marsh, meanwhile, is working on the voices, with an emphasis on part-singing, "to make them understand their different registers, to feel the expressive contours of a song, to vocalise, to improvise. They have to improvise for GCSE, but they never seem to do it with the voice." She uses Pachelbel's *Canon* as a warm-up piece. Everybody starts by belting out the bass. Then groups begin to improvise over the tune, moving as they do so.

Past OYMT shows have included *Godspell*, *The Card*, and *Billy*. *The Boyfriend* and *Guys and Dolls* are possibilities for next year. One or two members of the group have already joined the National Youth Theatre or National Youth Music Theatre. This year, three will be going on to professional theatre training and performing-arts degrees. Most of them, though, are simply in it for the fun, and because it is the social high point of the week.

"We sometimes worry," Marsh says, "about the professional stage groups that are operating now, where the children are taught to play a *part*. They don't build in their own skills of improvisation, movement, singing. We feel we *must* give each individual child those skills first."

HOW TO GET [illegible]

- *The Matchgirls* plays tonight at 7.30pm in the Y. P. Hall of the School of St Helen and St Katharine, Faringdon Road, Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Tickets: 01235 524957 or at the door.
- OYMT (auditions necessary) rehearses for two and a half hours each week, two terms a year, with an annual show, just before Easter. Contact Judy Tompsett: 01235 530344

Dan, the all-round family entertainer

FUTURE VISIONS

The humble living-room television is about to be transformed into a powerful interactive entertainment engine — or so the pundits claim — whisking us out on an electronic shopping spree one moment, to the office the next, then whizzing us through a stimulating video game before downloading the latest hit video. I take leave to doubt it. It all sounds much too Californian: laid-back and exhausting at the same time.

Admittedly, it is the philosophy behind many recent home-entertainment products, such as Philips CD-i and Panasonic's 3DO: but it is no accident that home cinema, the ultimate couch-potato experience, has been growing much faster. Adults, in particular, value the rest and release of that living-room screen too much to clutter it up with the effortful paraphernalia of keyboards, joysticks and so on — or children demanding to use them.

However, many homes have at least one extra television, in the bedroom, perhaps, or for the children, and more and more are acquiring personal computers and video games, too. Merge these in a kind of electronic syzygy, and you need only one screen instead of two and one box of tricks instead of three. Several manufacturers have seen this opportunity, but one of the neatest examples has appeared from a rising British computer company, Dan Technology. Although relatively small, Dan has garnered golden opinions for the quality of its products and service, rivalling established multinationals such as Dell. Its machines, however, are largely no-nonsense, professional PCs, so it was a surprise to see a new family model, the Supermedia.

This is still a serious machine with a 486 DX2-66 processor — a sound family saloon, but upgradeable, via an Overdrive chip, to approach the performance of the "hot hatchback" Pentium processors — and eight megabytes of memory and a 420 megabyte hard disc.

This is ample for most home-office applications, and also, with a fast video circuit card, for demanding state-of-the-art games such as *Doom* and *Dark Forces*. Multimedia capacity is added with a versatile sound card, speakers and CD-Rom drive, plus a large package of family-oriented software, including the *Encarta* encyclopaedia.

On top of all this, Dan has built in a fax-modem card, essential for potential home workers and Internet surfers, and a very neat television card. You can use the computer as a television, viewing the picture via the Windows desktop, in a window of any size and with a virtual "remote control". What is more, you can connect a VCR, LaserDisc or camcorder, and "capture" video sequences as multimedia movies to be played back via Windows on other computers.

The machine comes in a substantial "minitower" case, with a Microsoft mouse and Dan's well-reviewed 14 or 15in monitor screen. The manual has been made much friendlier, and its support service has won awards.

Altogether this is a fine machine, offering an imaginative choice of facilities for the whole family. At £1,525 or £1,599 plus value-added tax, depending on the size of the monitor, the Supermedia is not cheap — but you might call it family value.

MICHAEL SCOTT ROHAN

Plays by the sea

THE TIMES
THE THEATRE CLUB

A WEEKEND of top-class theatre is yours for only £80 at the Brighton Festival. On Friday, May 12, see Romania's National Theatre of Craiova in a powerful adaptation of Seneca's tragedy *Phaedra* at the Theatre Royal. On Saturday spend the afternoon at a workshop led by members of the Wrestling School, the company dedicated to producing the works of Howard Barker. The workshop will take the form of selected readings from Barker's works, followed by a discussion of his views on theatre. On Saturday evening members will be able to see a performance of Barker's *The Castle* at the Gardner Centre, a play of sweeping landscapes, visionary spectacle and pungent poetic idiom. Finally, on Sunday you will be taken on a special guided tour of Brighton's famous Royal Pavilion.

The cost of £80 per person sharing — £100 for a single room — also includes two nights' bed and breakfast accommodation at the recently refurbished three-star Royal Albion Hotel, situated on the seafront. You will also enjoy free membership to the Sussex Arts Club (the official festival club) for the whole weekend. To book, telephone 01273 329202, quoting your theatre club membership number

HOW TO BOOK — AND JOIN

TO BOOK, please phone the listed number during normal office hours. The price printed on the ticket you receive will be the special price negotiated by the Theatre Club. In some cases there may be a transaction charge to cover postage.
TO JOIN the Theatre Club either send a cheque for £12.50, made payable to The Theatre Club, together with your name, address and telephone number to The Theatre Club, P.O. Box 2164, Colchester CO1 1GN, or telephone 01206 791737 using your credit card. Please allow 28 days for delivery of your membership pack. For general inquiries call 0171-387 9673

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON
Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith
April 20-21
● SHARED Experience Theatre brings Helen Edmundson's adaptation of George Eliot's *Mill on the Floss* to the stage. Club members can buy two tickets for £10 (normally £7.50 to £15). Tel 0181-741 2311

South Bank Centre
Purcell Room
April 23
● DAVE SCHNEIDER, star of television comedy programmes such as *The Day Today*, *Knowing Me, Knowing You* and *Glam Metal Detectives*, comperes another excellent Jewish Comedy Show. Members can buy tickets for the 5.30pm performance for £7.50 (normally £10). Tel 0171-928 8800

Playhouse
April 15 (1pm)
● INFLUENCE the development of a new musical at a rehearsed play reading. *Dusty*, by Paul Prescott, is the story of a woman whose life has been directed by her adoration of Dusty Springfield and her music. Following the reading there will be a discussion between the author, director, cast members and audience. Members can buy a ticket for £5 which includes a glass of wine and sandwich in the interval. Tel 0171-839 4401

HULL
Hull Truck Theatre
April 11-May 20
● JOHN GODBER, the author of *Bouncers*, *Up 'n' Under* and *On the Piste*, launches his new play *Lucky Sods*, an outrageous comedy about a family that suddenly becomes very rich. The cast includes Iain Rogerson, Christine Cox, Janet Dibley and Nick Lane. Buy two tickets for the price of one (normal prices £7.50). Tel 01482 323638

New Theatre
April 10
● TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50 and £10.50) to see *Wuthering Heights*, based on the classic novel by Emily Brontë. Tel 01482 226655

LIVERPOOL
Everyman Theatre
April 19
● INSPIRED by the experiences of hostage Brian Keenan, *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me* is set in a Beirut cell, in which an Irishman, an Englishman and an American find a way to survive their imprisonment. Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for the price of one (normally £5 and £7). Tel 0151-709 4776

OXFORD
Playhouse
April 20-22
● CRYSTAL Clear Opera presents *The Tragedy of Carmen*. Peter Brook's internationally acclaimed adaptation of Bizet's ever-popular masterpiece. Theatre Club members can buy the best available seats for £8.50 (normally £8.50, £12.50, £14.50 and £16.50). Tel 01865 798600

ON TOUR

● SYLVIA SYMS, Gemma Craven and Jan Harvey star in *Lunch Girls*, Ron Hart's witty look at suburban life. See it on tour at:

SOUTHSEA
King's Theatre
April 18-20
Members can buy two top-price tickets for the price of one (normally £10.50 and £11.50). Tel 01705 828282

EASTBOURNE
Devonshire Park Theatre
April 24
Two tickets for the price of one (normally £5.50 to £9.75). Tel 01323 412000

PETERBOROUGH
Key Theatre
May 8-9
Two tickets for the price of one (normally £9 and £9.50). Tel 01733 52439

WH Smith CD of the week

It is 40 years since Bill Haley and his Comets had teenagers tearing up the seats and dancing in cinema aisles to the revolutionary beat of *Rock Around The Clock*. To celebrate the anniversary, we present *Happy Birthday Rock'n'Roll* as this week's Times/WH Smith recommended recording.

Buddy Holly, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Brenda Lee, Tab Hunter and many others feature in 28 tracks of vintage rock.

Take the coupon below to a WH Smith music counter and you can obtain it at a £3 saving on the normal price of £9. 99. The offer is valid until April 29, 1995.

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ARTS

RECORDINGS: A very grand Bellini; Bach's passion in Parrott fashion; of myth and Menswear

[illegible]

John Higgins

■ BELLINI
I Puritani
Caballé/Kraus/Manuguerra/
Philharmonia/Muti
EMI Classics
7 69663 2 (3 CDs)★★★

☐ VERDI
Il trovatore
Price/Obraztsova/Bonisolli/
Cappuccilli/Berlin
Philharmonic/Karajan
EMI Classics
7 69311 2 (2 CDs)★

EMI'S two opera reissues this month on its mid-price label, one conducted by Muti and the other by Karajan, are of very different quality. Bellini's *I Puritani* was among the best of Muti's early sets and much of its strength came from the conductor himself. As usual he cleared away the unwritten "display" notes singers had added over the years, but that still left plenty that Bellini had written to extend his tenor and soprano. More importantly, Muti was determined to treat *Puritani* as a very grand opera indeed, with emotions to match.

No sign here of languid Bellini and even less of skittish Bellini. Muti is especially impressive in the pageantry of the wedding scene, which closes Act I. Alfredo Kraus is one of the few tenors able to make the notoriously difficult entry of the bridegroom, Arturo, without fear of a fluff and, under Muti's guidance, he achieves it gloriously. The last act belongs to the tenor, and Kraus makes sure of that, but only after Muti and the Philharmonia have rattled Plymouth, where it all takes place, with a fearsome storm.

Caballé: precision singing

Montserrat Caballé's Elvira is equally secure. From the way she dispatches her Act II *cabaletta*, it is clear that madness will not last too long. Callas was perhaps more moving here (her *Puritani* is available from EMI on only two CDs), but the notes come more easily to Caballé. Even Muti cannot greatly inspire the baritone and bass. Manuguerra's Riccardo often sounds ill-focused, especially beside the precision singing of Kraus and Caballé, and Agostino Ferrin just rumbles along as *Giorgio*. Together they make something at last of the rousing military duet *Suoni la tromba* with Muti driving them on to battle.

Karajan also treats Verdi's *Trovatore* as a highly serious work and also a very noisy one. At the time of the recording (1977) he favoured extremes of volume which, even after remastering, can make for uncomfortable listening. Karajan lets the trumpets of the Berlin Philharmonic bray; he also lets his singers do likewise. The orchestra and conductor are soulmates suffering from Karajan's sometimes quirky casting instincts. Leontyne Price in her prime was a great Leonora, but by the mid-1970s that prime was passing. Even though Verdi's heroine was an aristocrat, Price sounds too stately by far and is unable to match the spring in the orchestra.

Franco Bonisolli looked good on stage and had a fine high C, but on record the roughnesses of his tenor are exposed. His Manrico barks away like an angry RSM even when addressing his mother, the equally strident Obraztsova.

The qualities of the set lie with two fine Verdians, Cappuccilli as di Luna and Raimondi as Ferrando, plus Karajan himself, when he is not overdoing things.

[illegible]

Barry Millington

■ WEYSE
Symphonies 4 & 5
Royal Danish Orchestra/
Schønwandt
Marco Polo/Da capo
8.224013★★

HIS symphonies "are not of real importance as independent concert music", says *New Grove* magisterially of the Danish composer Christoph Ernst Friedrich Weyse (1774-1842). It is true that Weyse is best remembered, if at all, by his vocal and theatrical works. But this delightful disc from the enterprising Marco Polo/Da capo label gives the lie to the notion that his seven symphonies, written in the early part of Weyse's life (the 1790s), are unworthy of resurrection.

The minor-key Fourth Symphony recalls Haydn in *Sturm und Drang* mode, while the Fifth (heard here in the much later revised version) opens with an energetic Allegro con brio and closes with a contrapuntal tour de force. The performances, by the Royal Danish Orchestra under Michael Schønwandt, are vigorous yet sympathetic.

☐ WAGNER
Wesendonck Lieder, orch. Henze; Siegfried Idyll; Träume
STRAUSS
Duett Concertino; Overture and Dance Scene from Ariadne auf Naxos
Northern Sinfonia/Hickox
Chandos CHAN 9354★★★

THOUGH his last instrumental work, and therefore dating from that glorious Indian summer whose fruit also included the Four Last Songs, Richard Strauss's Duett Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon is not a piece very often performed. It suffers from a somewhat prolix Rondo finale, but the first two movements, which highlight the clarinet and bassoon respectively, playing the roles of Beauty and the Beast, are simply ravishing. Robert Plane and Stephen Reay are the excellent soloists on this delightful disc from the Northern Sinfonia under its principal guest conductor, Richard Hickox. The worlds of *Daphne* and *Capriccio* are not far away, but it is the earlier *Ariadne auf Naxos* that is coupled here in the form of the Overture and Dance Scene.

More fascinating still are Wagner's *Wesendonck Lieder* in the orchestration by Hans Werner Henze. Always sensitive to the moods of the texts, Henze introduces the doleful alto flute and cor anglais, and, in *Im Treibhaus*, suggests the delicate rustling of the trees' leaves in the strings, with gently plucked harp for the teardrops. The mezzo Jard van Nes and Hickox catch both the desolate atmosphere of that song and the sense of Tristanesque reverie in *Träume*. The latter song is heard also in Wagner's own arrangement for solo violin and chamber orchestra (the solo beautifully played by Lesley Hatfield), while a seductive account of the *Siegfried Idyll* completes the disc.

BAROQUE

Stephen Pettitt

■ BACH
St John Passion, BWV 245
Covey-Crump/Thomas/
Taverner Consort and
Players/Parrott
Virgin Veritas
VCD 5 45096 2 (2 CDs)★★★

ANDREW PARROTT'S philosophy of interpretation often seems to be that cleanliness is next to godliness, which has from time to time led to accusations that his conducting lacks personality. His new account of Bach's *St John Passion* is certainly clean, but it is also intimate and free-flowing, lying in the right kind of territory somewhere between an opera-house job and a piously ecclesiastical one.

The intimacy comes in part from Parrott's practice of following the drift of Joshua Rifkin's theories about the numbers who took part in Bach's performances. Here, excluding the Evangelist and Christus, there are just nine singers, including two boys from the Tolzer Knabenchor. Parrott's choral singers also take responsibility for the arias, delivered stylishly and with a nice lack of ostentation, and, of course, sing the smaller dramatic roles as well.

The Evangelist, Rogers Covey-Crump, narrates with a lightness of approach which obviates a preaching tone, though he does not glide over drama or emotion; Christus is David Thomas, who just occasionally shows signs of those slight mannerisms — a little swoop here, a suddenly exaggerated slur there — that can compromise accuracy of tone and pitch, but his scaling and pacing of the role is perfect.

The Taverner Players give a crisp account, with several obbligato players making outstanding contributions, notably Richard Boothby, who provides a plangent viola da gamba line in the key alto aria *Es ist vollbracht!*, beautifully sung by Caroline Trevor.

☐ WHITE
Tudor Church Music (including Lamentations)
Tallis Scholars/Phillips
Gimell CDGIM 030★★★

ANOTHER timely release, on account of its inclusion of Robert White's five-part setting of the darkly prophetic *Lamentations of Jeremiah*, music the equal of Tallis's better-known setting. White lived from about 1538 to 1574 and wrote in an opulent style, setting Latin texts in the service of Elizabeth I's Protestant church, though organising his polyphony in a more advanced, Renaissance-influenced manner than, say, his great predecessor, John Taverner. (This year is the 450th anniversary of Taverner's death; is anyone doing anything substantial to commemorate him?)

The disc also includes a stunningly expressive setting of the *Magnificat*, two large scale psalm-motets, *Portio mea* and *Exaudiat te Dominus*, two contrasting settings of the hymn *Christe qui lux es*, and the short votive antiphon *Regina caeli*. The singing of the Tallis Scholars, directed by Peter Phillips, is infused with an expressive intensity which renders questions of strict authenticity meaningless.

CHAMBER

Hilary Finch

■ PROKOFIEV
Violin Sonatas
Bell/Mustonen
Decca 440926-2★★★

PROKOFIEV started working on his F minor Violin Sonata at the outbreak of the Second World War, and a chill wind blows through its every note, nowhere more so than in the rapid scale passages of the first movement, which he said were to be played "like the wind in a graveyard".

Joshua Bell and Olli Mustonen take him at his word. The American violinist and Finnish pianist (both now 28) have a good line in making the flesh creep: they are both free and passionate spirits, and their chamber-music making (often in the company of cellist Steven Isserlis) sparks a rare chemistry. Never has the slow movement seemed more reminiscent of the lament Prokofiev wrote after the Battle on the Ice scene in *Alexander Nevsky*. Bell and Mustonen hold song and accompaniment in movingly delicate balance.

Bell: free and passionate

The D major sonata inhabits a different world. Originally written for flute and piano, it has a delicate, fluid grace which is recreated here in the nonchalant, yet precisely phrased first movement, a wild waltz of a presto, and a finale which is buoyant without ever being brittle.

☐ MOZART
Quintet in G Minor/ Quartet in G
Lindsay Quartet
ASV CD DCA 923★★★

THE Lindsays' Mozart has been well worth the long wait: the quartet, joined by viola Patrick Ireland, has just released the first of six discs in a series which will feature the composer's string quartets and quintets.

It begins with an outstanding performance of the great G minor quintet, each movement making its distinct interpretative mark. The first is lightly sprung as the key alone provides quite enough *Drang* to make it unnecessary to overload the playing with stylistic *Sturm*. Accents sing rather than stab, and intensity grows through a minuetto of sharp, lean contours.

The K387 G major quartet starts with the same triumphant high spirits with which the quintet had ended: the Lindsays' playing has a quality of lusty, live performance rather than of a studio-edited production.

They enjoy the elasticity of the wilfully accented minuetto and create a sense of voices and movement fluttering from all directions in the contrapuntal excitement of the finale. An auspicious beginning.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ HUMPHREY LYTTELTON/ ACKER BILK
Three In The Morning
Calligraph CLG-CD030★★★

ONCE the dust had settled on their first joint effort, 1992's *At Sundown*, only one question remained: how quickly could the old campaigners be brought back into the studio. The re-match proves to be every bit as stimulating, tuneful and relaxed.

Lyttelton always pays more attention than most to programming and pacing. His catholic tastes ensure that the journey swings from New Orleans to Kansas City and Chicago, with a brief detour to the Caribbean. Careful not to over-stretch himself on his trumpet solos, he offers concise phrasing that is more expressive than any amount of pyrotechnics.

Better known, of course, for a brand of trad jazz that sometimes leans towards the shrill and schmaltzy, Bilk plays with easy authority; he fits snugly into the varied settings, his clarinet dropping into the lower register as it weaves lines beneath Lyttelton's horn. One advantage this set enjoys over the first is the graceful presence of John Barnes, whose saxophones add to an already generous palette of colours. As before, Dave Cliff, Dave Green and Bobby Worth form a polished rhythm section.

Bilk: easy authority

Among the highlights, Lyttelton nudges a path through the fragile, 16-bar verse of *Mound Bayou* before Bilk takes over on the chorus. *Tiz-dum, Tiz-dum* builds momentum with a deceptively casual riff. And on *I Told You Once, I Told You Twice*, Lyttelton brings out his own clarinet to help pay homage to Sidney Bechet.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ WET WET WET
Picture This
Precious Organisation/
Mercury 526 851★

WITH its grand production, its sumptuous string arrangements and its lavish cover artwork commissioned from "a *Who's Who*" of Scotland's leading artists, *Picture This* is an album which arrives groaning under the weight of its own pretensions.

Not so much blue-eyed as blue-rinse soul, it has a style and pace that is as conservative as a grandfather clock. In the year that Britain will be represented in the Eurovision Song Contest by a rap number, the Wets have come up with a selection of material that Des O'Connor might regard as a trifle staid. "If you're there and you care/You will get a million kisses from me, somewhere, somehow." Marti Pellow croons with due gravity on *Somewhere, Somehow*, a lyric which is typical of the album's unfailingly sentimental tone.

The line between playing for hordes of screaming teenage girls and the twin-set and pearls brigade is surprisingly thin. With this album the Wets seem to have vaulted straight over it without ever having lived a life in between.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ MENSWEAR
I'll Manage Somehow
Laurel LAU4★★

SPLASHED across the cover of *Melody Maker* months ago and ushered straight onto *Top of the Pops* last week, the fashionable London group, Menswear, have finally got around to the bothersome task of releasing their first single. But do not expect to find it in the shops. Production has been strictly limited to just 5,000 copies (2,500 on CD; 2,500 on 7in vinyl), ensuring that demand will far outstrip supply and the group's assiduously cultivated reputation will escalate irrespective of whether anyone actually likes or even hears their music.

For the record, *I'll Manage Somehow* is a speedy pop tune which takes its cue from the primitive, mod-group recordings of the 1960s. Busy drums, hyper-distorted guitar and twangy bass concoct a spiky backing track with no discernible bottom end, while Chris Gentry, a singer plainly hired for his perfectly sculpted features as opposed to his rather characterless voice, bangs on about catching the bus, turning on the television and generally coping with the hell of modern teenage life.

Menswear: teenage hell

Actually, it is not at all bad, and if Menswear do not become engulfed by their own hype, they could turn into something worthwhile. But that is a very big if.

★ Worth hearing
★★ Worth considering
★★★ Worth buying

NEW ON VIDEO: Rattigan lightly reworked; chanting with monks; a dated, nude travelogue; Capra flies the flag

Master-class: Albert Finney plays Crocker-Harris in Mike Figgis's handsome production of Terence Rattigan's *The Browning Version*

■ THE BROWNING VERSION
CIC, U, 1994

RATTIGAN'S play is lightly updated, which may be the film's big mistake: if you remove its desiccated classics teacher from the postwar years, he becomes more dinosaur than human being. Albert Finney is grave and noble as Crocker-Harris, though he lacks the vulnerability to make us share all his pain as his life unravels. A handsome production, with a smouldering performance from Greta Scacchi as the wayward wife, Laura. Directed by Mike Figgis. Available to rent.

■ CANTO GREGORIANO
Picture Music International, E, 1995

THE video of the best-selling album from the Benedictine monks of Santo Domingo de Silos in Spain. Ten Gregorian chants cut to soaring stock footage of nature's wonders mingle with historical footnotes and glimpses into monkish life. Supposed to move you to a new level of inner peace, it only moved me to the fast-forward button.

■ CORINNA, CORINNA
Guild, PG, 1994

A "FEELGOOD" movie, available to rent, about a black housekeeper who brings life and love to a seven-year-old girl and her widowed father. Actress-turned-director Jessie Nelson squeezes some real feelings from predictable material, though since the housekeeper is Whoopi Goldberg, you keep seeing the star, not the character. A winning performance by Tina Majorino as the youngster numbed by grief, and a lovely collection of late 1950s furniture.

■ L'ENFER
Curzon, 15, 1994

CLAUDE CHABROL'S odd tale of sexual jealousy in a provincial hotel, based on a script prepared 30 years before by Henri-Georges Clouzot. Early scenes jangle nicely as François Cluzet's hero pushes his wife Emmanuelle Béart to the point of madness. But the more the plot thickens, the less convincing the film becomes. Béart appears ill at ease in a role meant for Romy Schneider.

■ FOREVER AMBER
FoxVideo, U, 1947

POSTWAR tosh, all dolled up in Technicolor, with Linda Darnell as the adopted waif in Charles II's time who hops between men, gets thrown in jail, becomes a darling of the court and the stage, and gets singed by the Great Fire of London. Hot stuff at the time; now almost staid, but still enjoyable, with a splendid score by David Raksin.

■ NAKED — AS NATURE INTENDED
Jezebel, 15, 1961

AMUSING, coy antique from Britain's nudie king, Harrison Marks, following five shapely girls to a sun camp in Cornwall, where they strip off, frolic with an inflated ball, wave their arms about and smile. Before all this, the film tries posing as a travelogue, with trips to Stonehenge, Clovelly and Land's End. About as erotic as a bus ticket.

■ BRITAIN STANDS ALONE
Reader's Digest, E

DURING the Second World War, Frank Capra supervised seven documentaries for the US War Department entitled *Why We Fight*, swirling with dated rhetoric and dazzlingly edited newsreel footage, and loud music by Dimitri Tiomkin and others. Three films, *Prelude to War*, *The Nazi Advance* and *The Battle of Britain*, are now available, slightly trimmed. Extremely suspect as an analysis of the war, but there is no denying their emotional power.

GEOFF BROWN

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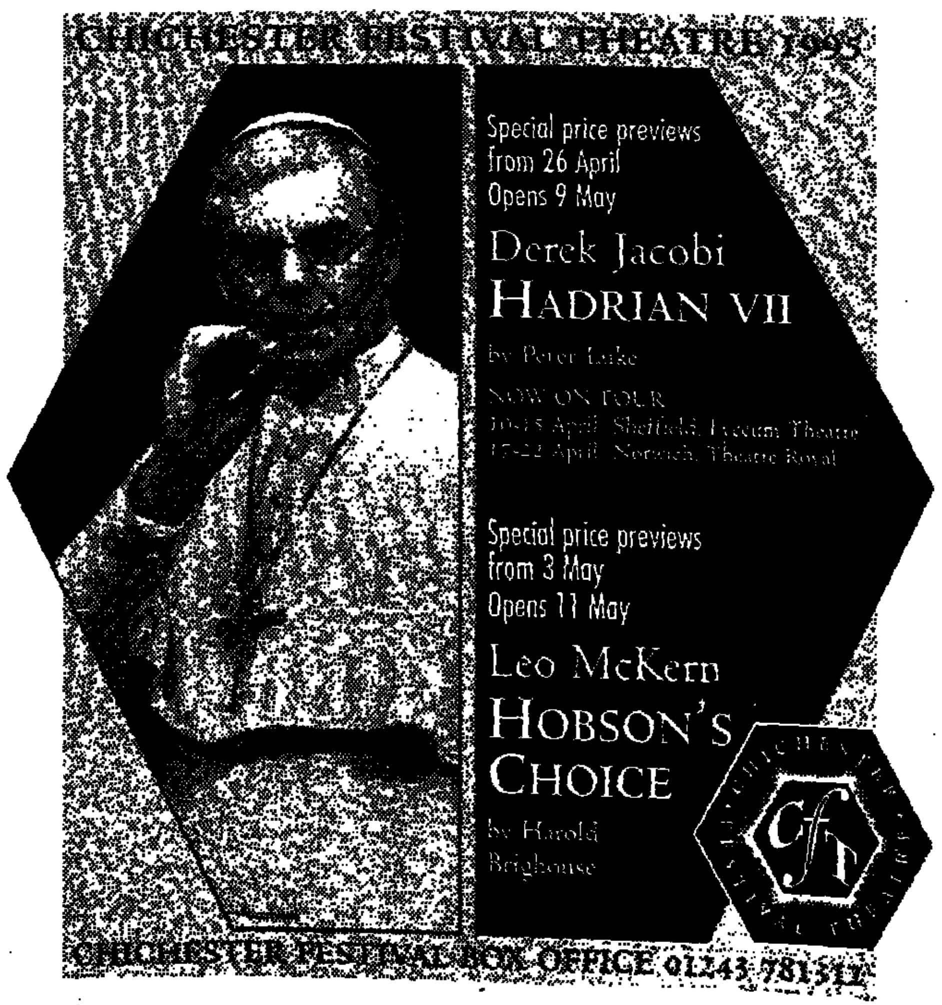
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Spring, with its bounty of fresh colour, is the time to see the best of British gardens

ROBERT HARDING

The magnificent yew topiary at Levens Hall, in Cumbria, includes the Howard Lion and Judge's Wig, enhanced by colourful spring bedding

Old glories win top award

AN AGREEABLE antidote to the fashion for constant change in gardens is Levens Hall, at Kendal in Cumbria, which celebrated its 300th anniversary last year. There have been only ten gardeners in that time, a testament to the continuity which the garden exudes. And the policy has paid off: Levens is the 1995 winner of the Christie's/Historic Houses Association "Garden of the Year" award.

The Elizabethan stone mansion is built round a 13th-century pele tower, and the unforgettable yew topiary surviving from the late 17th century is enhanced at this time of the year by the arrangement of spring bedding.

Blocks of white tulips, blue forget-me-nots and velvety yellow and muted-orange wallflowers are contained in box-edged patterns beneath the Howard Lion, Judge's Wig and other huge shapes of clipped yew.

The topiary garden was the work of a French garden designer, Guillame Beaumont, who was also responsible for the series of four allées between now-massive beech hedges, which meet at a circular rondel. One of the allées leads to probably the earliest ha-ha in England, which divides the garden from the park. The present owners, Mr and Mrs Hal Bagot, have rejuvenated planting and developed the large area of walled garden to one side of the topiary garden.

Mixed shrub and herbaceous borders now extend parallel to the castellated yew hedge bounding one side of the topiary garden, and, in place of a traditional vegetable and fruit garden, there is a new and immaculate potager.

● *Levens Hall garden, Kendal, Cumbria (015395 60321). Five miles south of Kendal on A6. Open until Sept 28, Sun-Thur, 11am-5pm. £2.90 (house and garden £4.20), children £1.80 (£2.50), over-65s £2.70 (£3.80).*

A selection of gardens open to visitors this weekend

☐ Overglen, St Clare Road, Upper Walmer, Deal, Kent (01304 374897).

Open today and tomorrow, 10.30am-4.30pm. £1.

Upper Walmer is within a few hundred yards of the sea. In addition, the garden has a sheltered, sloping site with a south/southeast-facing aspect.

During the past 11 years the owner, Mrs Gill Barwick, has built up a fine collection of plants within the garden's one-third of an acre. Brick-walled and rectangular, it is a traditional town garden in shape, but adventurous in its planting. At this time of year, spring-flowering perennials, such as wallflowers and pulmonarias, mix with an array of bulbs ranging from dwarf tulips to stately crown imperials. There is a good collection of euphorbias, and the evergreen *Clematis armandii* will be showing off its rich white flowers against one sheltered wall.

One of the garden's best features is the use of evergreens — clipped yew, holly and bay, for instance — to balance the different shades of colour and give permanent structure throughout the year.

Overglen will open this weekend to help raise funds for the local flower club and the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens (NCCPG), of which Mrs Barwick is the local representative.

☐ Fellows' Gardens, King's College and Trinity College, Cambridge (King's, 01223 331100; Trinity, 01223 338400).

Entrance to both from Queen's Road. Open tomorrow, 2-6pm (King's also July 23). £1, children free.

Spring is the time to visit Cambridge. The views across the River Cam to King's College, with its famous chapel, and Trinity College a little further along, are among the best in the city. The two colleges' Fellows' gardens are across the river from the buildings and only a short walk apart. Both are Victorian gardens, the one at King's retaining an outstanding collection of specimen trees planted at that time.

The two-acre garden at King's is interesting because much of the planting was carried out during the 1850s when the university's botanic garden was being established. Large areas of lawn flow around three principal beds and lead to well-grouped peripheral trees and shrubs.

The trees include a fine Lucombe oak, with its distinctive corky bark, and a towering pair of Wellingtonias, beloved of the Victorians. If the pink-flowered *Cercis siliquastrum* (Judas tree) is out, this will dominate most visitors' memory of the garden. The eight-acre Trinity garden was laid out by W.B. Thomas, the distinguished Victorian garden designer who worked at Buckingham Palace and Sandringham.

Again, there are fine trees, such as a cut-leaf beech with an enormous canopy, and drifts of bulbs in areas of grass and beneath shrubs.

The wild meadow garden is at its best at this time of year, with random tulips, snake's head fritillaries and daffodils not yet swamped by the grass.

☐ Gayton Hall, Norfolk (01553 636259).

Six miles east of King's Lynn, off B1145; signs in Gayton village. Open tomorrow and by appointment. £2, children free.

Norfolk is noted for being dry, but here is a 20-acre garden where water is an important feature. Two lakes with springs feed a series of streams, which wind among the woodland and areas of rough grass. Lysichitons and spring-flowering primulas are spectacular along the banks of the streams, while the less watery areas of grass are magnificently carpeted with daffodils.

During the past 20 years Mr and Mrs Julian Marsham have built on the distinguished collection of trees planted by their predecessors. The ornamental varieties include an outstanding collection of cercidiphyllums planted in various well-sited groups.

One of the most impressive trees, revelling in its waterside position, is a towering swamp cypress, *Taxodium distichum*.

GEORGE PLUMPTRE

Cowshed couture

This is the time of year when the fashion houses launch their collections, and I would like to do the same. Alas, it is proving impossible. I have got the farming wardrobe down to a fine art for the wet winter months, but spring and summer wear eludes me.

Winter is dead easy. Corduroy cannot be beaten, except perhaps by tweed when the wind is icy. Match that with a battered flat cap that has been trampled by a herd of heifers and you have the ensemble. Matching accessories might include a filthy bit of rag hanging from the pocket with which to wipe the permanent drip at the end of one's nose, and baler twine around the ankles to prevent rats scampering up the trousers or warm air escaping down them. It would draw gasps on a catwalk with its mixture of traditional and casual elegance, and if anyone at *Vogue* finds their appetite whetted by this, I'd be happy to advise on a nice little number run up out of hessian potato sacks that would suit that Naomi Campbell like a dream.

So successful has my mix 'n' match fashion policy been that my brother-in-law, on a visit to the farm, spied a shambling figure slithering through the muddy yard and said: "I see Paul has taken on some sag-arsed rural loon." I had not. It was me.

But now that warmer days have arrived and the hair shirt has been put away for another year, what am I to wear? Certainly, the uniform currently in vogue with farmers has little going for it. It consists of an overall — always in green — made out of cloth which owes its origins more to the plastics factory than the tweed looms. It is cheaply made, too, usually with poppers instead of buttons, and is invariably worn with a baseball cap bearing the logo of some manufacturer of noisy tractors or stinking chemicals. It is the farmer's final submission to the agrochemical industry: they have taken charge of his mind and to prove it he wears their name on his head. I want none of that. But I need a summer wardrobe. I want to be cool but protected, too; there is no more grim an experience than making hay in shorts, or shucking thistly sheaves of corn dressed in shorts and T-shirt. I tried it once and was itching from the middle of August till Bonfire night. No, Marks & Spencer has nothing to offer this farmer in his search for summer garb.

I was beginning to despair of finding anything when I came across a book by H.J. Massingham, *This Plot of Earth*. It proclaims itself to be a "Gardener's Chronicle" but that great countryman could not resist the temptation to step out of the vegetable plot and into the farmyard. My eye was caught by one of his essays entitled "Why is the Smock Obsolete?" Writing of his own smock he declares: "It is one of the finest I have ever seen. Though so old, it looks as though it had never been worn. It allows for complete freedom of movement, and the delicacy and elasticity of the smocking are beyond praise. Being traditional, it was cut out of squares and oblongs by folding with gussets under the armpits. It has a collar, French knots at the shoulder straps, but no pockets. If then a smock lasts forever, keeps out the rain, is light and yet warm and combines serviceableness and simplicity with such beauty of decoration, why do you never see a countryman in one?"

[illegible]

A good question, the answer to which is probably that there are few farmers left who are happy to go around looking like Bo-Peep. But not me. If it has to be a choice between French knots or baseball caps, I know which I shall choose. A smock is ideal wear for the sort of summer farming I do. If it were made of cotton, it would be cool on those hot hay-making or sheep-shearing days; if made as Massingham describes it, it would not impede the flinging movements of the arm as we fork sheaves of corn on to the waggon to cart them home.

I suppose I shall have to have one made, for those I have seen in museums all seem built to fit Snow White's companions rather than a 6ft 2in giant. But that should be no problem. As Massingham points out: "They were the art of illiterate people, part of the profound culture of a people who wrote crosses for signatures."

So there's a new use for those school-leavers we keep hearing about. It may be no accident that our Education Secretary is Mrs Shephard.

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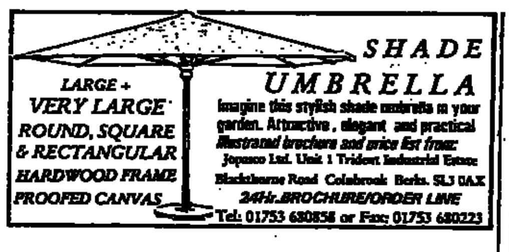

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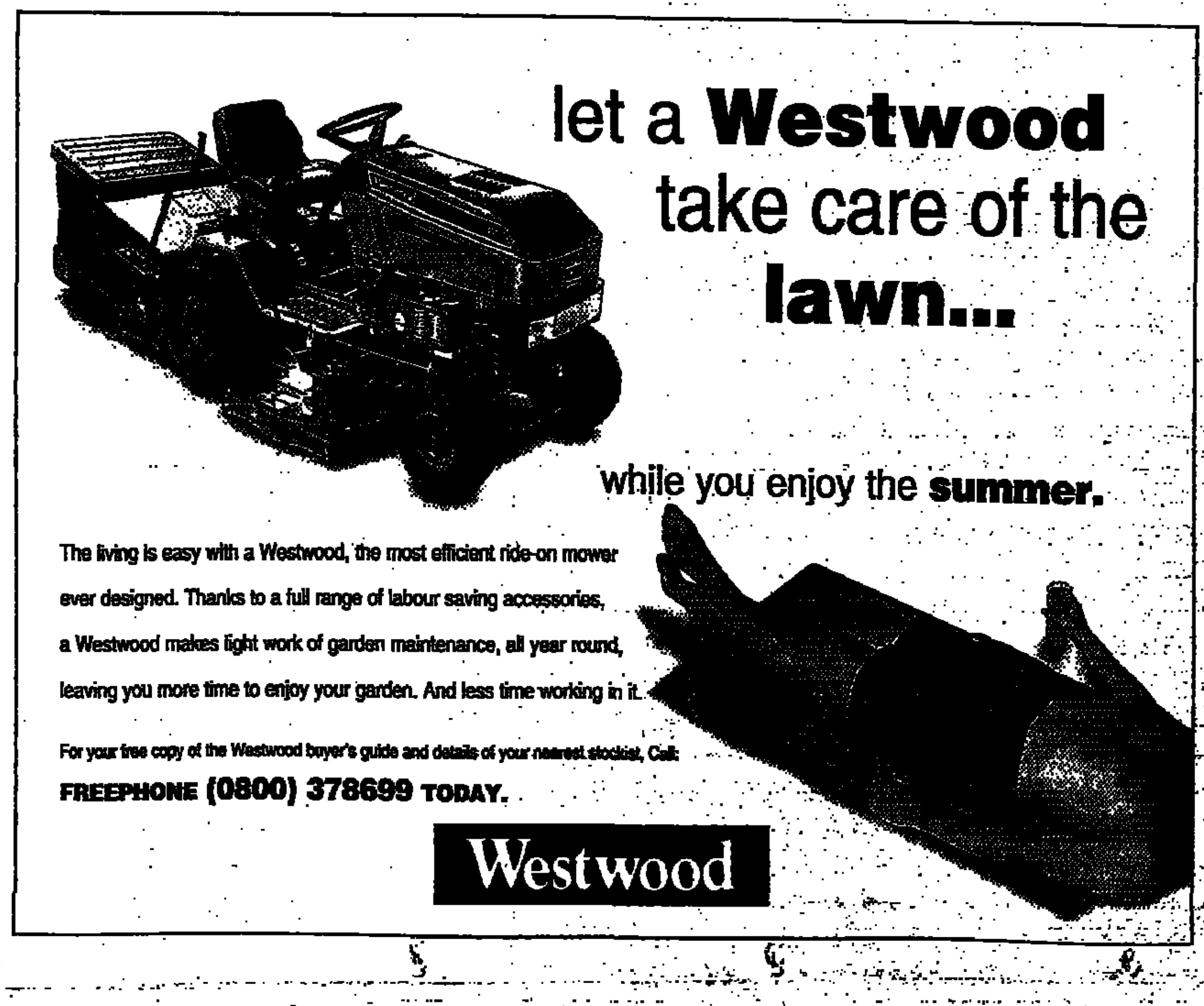

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GARDENING

George Plumptre, The Times Gardener, explains the best way to reposition mature trees

The moving story of a tree

To many Americans when moving home, the tree mover is as important as the furniture mover. Trees are family and cannot be left behind. It is an idea that is catching on here, and I understand why.

Three years ago we moved and left behind three trees planted to mark the birth of our children. I regularly think of the trees, how big they have grown and whether they are being looked after. I miss them, in particular the copper beech *Fagus sylvatica* 'Rohanii', planted for our elder son, Wyndham.

Such attachment is one reason for moving large trees, but you may arrive at a new house, or decide in a long-established garden that one or more mature trees need to be moved. It is a tricky task which has to be tackled by one of a handful of specialist firms.

Using a machine called a tree spade, large trees are dug out with a generous rootball and replanted. The tree spade, which is operated by hydraulics and fixed on a lorry or tractor-like vehicle, has four, huge, arrowhead sections which open around the tree and plunge into the ground, closing to clamp the rootball and enough earth to avoid disturbing the roots.

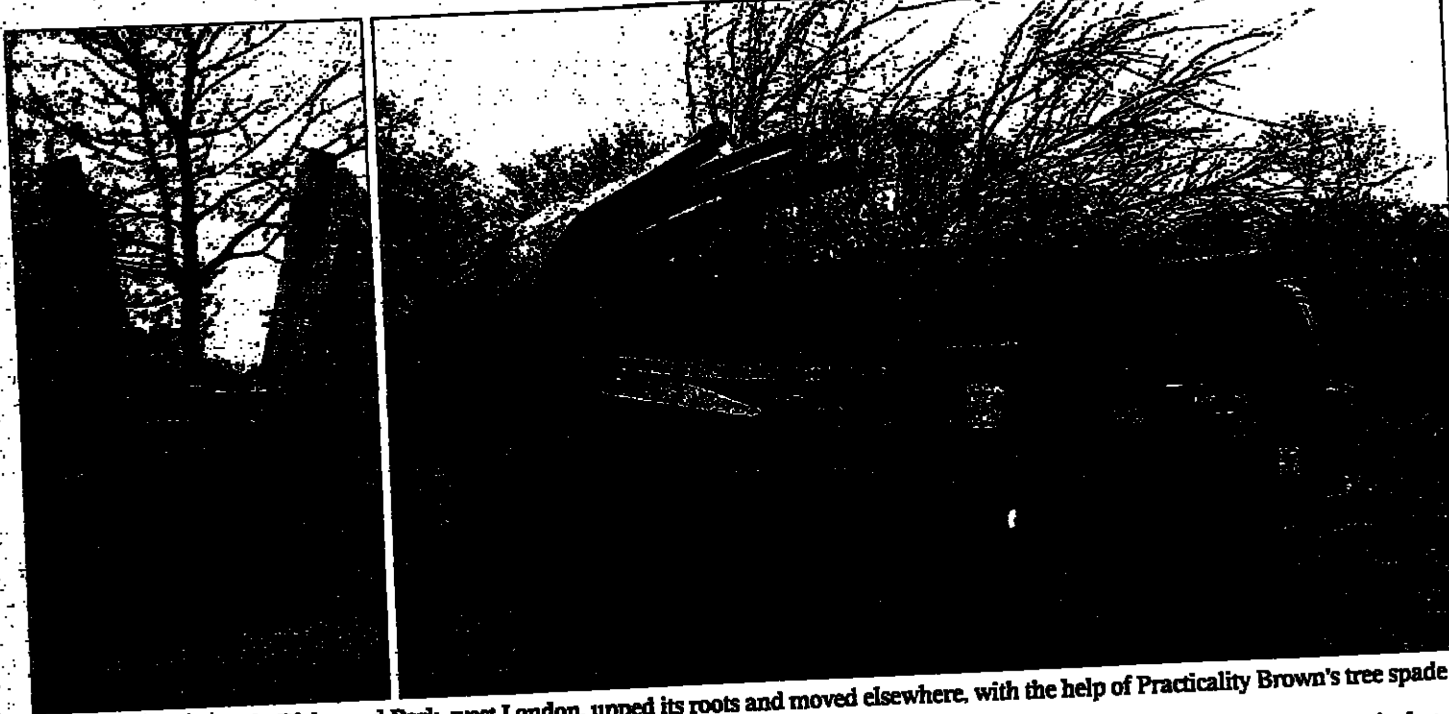
Tree-moving specialists are an élite group and include Ruskins in Essex, Practicality Brown in Buckinghamshire, and Greenfield Garden Services in Gloucester. The latter recently moved a number of mature trees in the city's cathedral close to enhance the photographic shots of the buildings in the BBC1 series *The Choir*.

These firms can also supply ready-grown trees, transporting them to you either clamped in a tree space, or with the rootball in a large bag or wooden box.

Ruskins operates the largest spade in the country, which will pick up a rootball 85in in diameter and weighing more than six tonnes. For a tree spade to dig up and replant, Ruskins quotes £350 a day for a 45in spade, which would cope with most private garden jobs.

For supplying and planting a new tree, Practicality Brown quotes £175 to £380 for a deciduous tree up to 6m (about 19ft 6in) tall, or conifers of 3-4m (about 10-13ft).

ADRIAN BROOKS



How a mature tree in Richmond Park, west London, upped its roots and moved elsewhere, with the help of Practicality Brown's tree spade

A mature specimen shrub or tree can give an instant focal point to a garden, a boon for anyone starting from scratch. Those who plant less mature trees and shrubs may find it difficult to visualise the end result, which can create problems when it comes to designing the rest of the garden.

Large, fully-grown trees are more expensive to buy than most trees available. They have to be looked after for longer, perhaps ten years in a nursery rather than two or three. None the less, container growing has changed things and made transplanting easier.

In many cases, the plants are imported, Italy being probably the main supplier, because certain regions there combine rich, well-drained soil and a warm climate with regular rain, ideal for rapid growth. Hardy trees and shrubs adapt easily to the British climate. But instant trees do not come cheap.

Here are price estimates from two nurseries that provide mature trees. The Romantic Garden Nursery, of Norwich, supplies ornamental shrubs, such as euonymus, viburnums or ceanothus, as 5ft specimens at £60 to £70 each. Bay trees 9ft high cost £65. A large evergreen, such as an Italian cypress 25ft to 30ft high, comes in a 350-litre pot weighing more than half a tonne, and costs about £500.

Clifton Nurseries, of London, is often asked for large climbers, such as jasmines, ivies or wisteria. A 12ft to 15ft wisteria costs about £100.

Planting large trees may give a garden an air of maturity, but buying big demands attention to planting and aftercare. Plants that have been growing in one site for a number of years have become established and do not take to moving as easily as a two or three-year-old seedling.

When planting a large tree, it is no good trying to fit the rootball into a hole of the same size; the hole must be wide and deep enough for the roots to go in undisturbed and unconfined. Lining the hole's base with organic compost or leafmould is important: organic material will retain moisture and encourage the roots to settle.

Once the rootball is in place, the space around the edges and the top can be filled in with earth, which should then be well-firmed. Regular watering is imperative, often for the first year or more. In dry spells, this should be at least weekly for the first few months, with a slow trickle that does not wash away earth from around the roots.

All the tree-moving specialists will advise on aftercare or offer a contract to do it for you for a set time. Relevant advice is also given by nurseries which specialise in selling large trees.

If you decide not to take out an aftercare contract, cancel your summer holiday immediately — or face the death of your leafy investment.

- *Ruskins, Upminster, Essex (01708 641144). Practicality Brown, Iver, Buckinghamshire (01753 652022). Greenfield Garden Services, Gloucester (01452 750300). The Romantic Garden Nursery, Norwich (01603 261488). Clifton Nurseries, west London (0171-289 6851).*

WEEKEND TIPS

- *This is a good time to deal with established summer-flowering shrubs, such as hebes, that require shaping every two or three years rather than regular pruning.*
- *If your vegetable patch is small, consider intercropping some fast-growing summer vegetables, such as salads, with slow-growing ones, such as cabbage and cauliflower, that you are planting or sowing now for winter cropping.*
- *The best way to establish an asparagus bed is to buy one-year-old crowns and plant them now. Plant in a well-drained bed prepared with plenty of rotted manure and compost. If your soil is heavy, grow asparagus in a raised bed. Cropping should be possible two years later.*
- *Make a note that you will sow lettuce regularly once a week or fortnight to produce a constant supply throughout summer. Using a half to a quarter of most seed packets produces a two-week supply.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **My small back garden has walls 5ft 6in tall, mainly north-facing, topped with trellis. I am fed up with my plants hot-footing it over the wall and giving my neighbours a lovely display while I see bare stems. I intend to start again, and do not mind removing the trellis. Can you suggest some plants, perhaps evergreens, which will stay at home?** — Mrs M. Johnstone, Lytham, Lancashire.

A I call this "north wall syndrome". The plants are being drawn up to the sunlight and then make the most of their sun-ripened flowering wood at the top, facing into your neighbour's garden. The best solution is to replant a mixed border of species which enjoy shade, or at least cool roots, and will not be drawn to the light. You could grow herbaceous rodgersias, hostas, cimicifugas, aconitums and ferns, with rhododendrons and Japanese maple.

If you want colourful climbers, such as roses, choose varieties best for a north wall — 'Gloire de Dijon', 'Aloha' and 'Mme Alfred Carriere', for example — and be prepared to tie the plants in each winter, to pull the growth down on your side of the wall. Even so, these roses will still do their best to grow over the top.

Evergreens to train on the wall include garrya, for its tassels, and pyracantha, for its berries. Plant choisya, for its aromatic foliage, and *Azara microphylla*, for its vanilla-scented flowers.

North wall syndrome applies to bedding and heathers, too; it pays not to plant them sloping away south from you, or you will miss the best of the colour and the faces of the flowers. Plant them to run north from you, so that you look at the sunnier side of the plants.

Q **Please tell me, which parts of a yew tree are poisonous? Our neighbours are concerned about the berries which fall from our magnificent yew into their garden and which could be attractive to their children. It is a pity that the recent promulgation of lists of poisonous plants might make us fear our garden and countryside beauties.** — Clare Smith, Worcester.

A Poisonous plants are no cause for panic, but people must be aware of the risks, and make children aware, too. The alkaloids which make yew poisonous are present in all parts of the plant except the red, fleshy coating around the seed. (There is an ornamental form with a yellow coating, too.)

The yew berry is a hard, brown seed surrounded by a cup of red flesh, rather like a minute, stuffed olive. The red flesh is not poisonous. The seed has a hard coating which retains the inner poisons, and seed can pass through a small bird before doing any harm. On the other hand, mammals chewing the seed will be poisoned.

The effects of yew poisoning depend on the amount consumed, stomach activity and other factors.

Death of humans, even sudden death in cattle, is possible (if very rare) as a result of eating leaves or seeds.

- *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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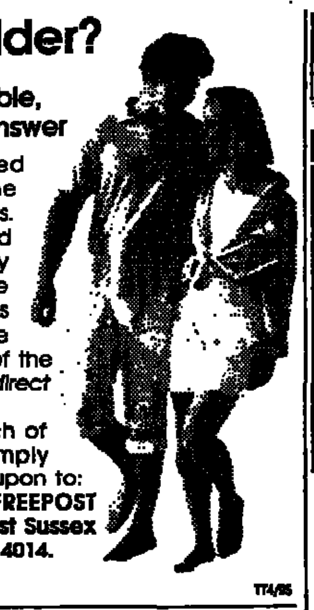

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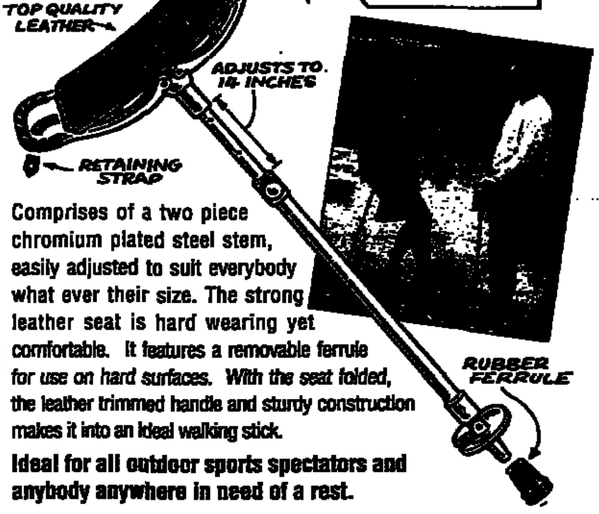

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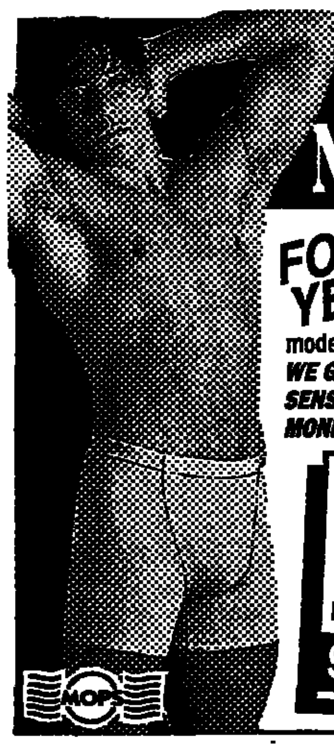

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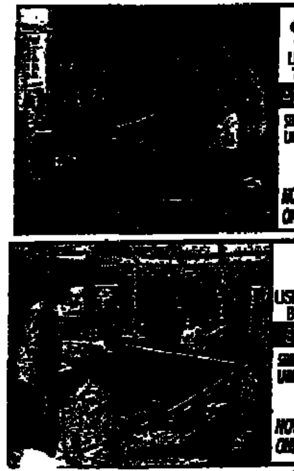

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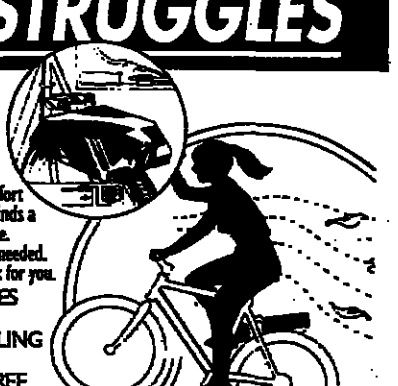

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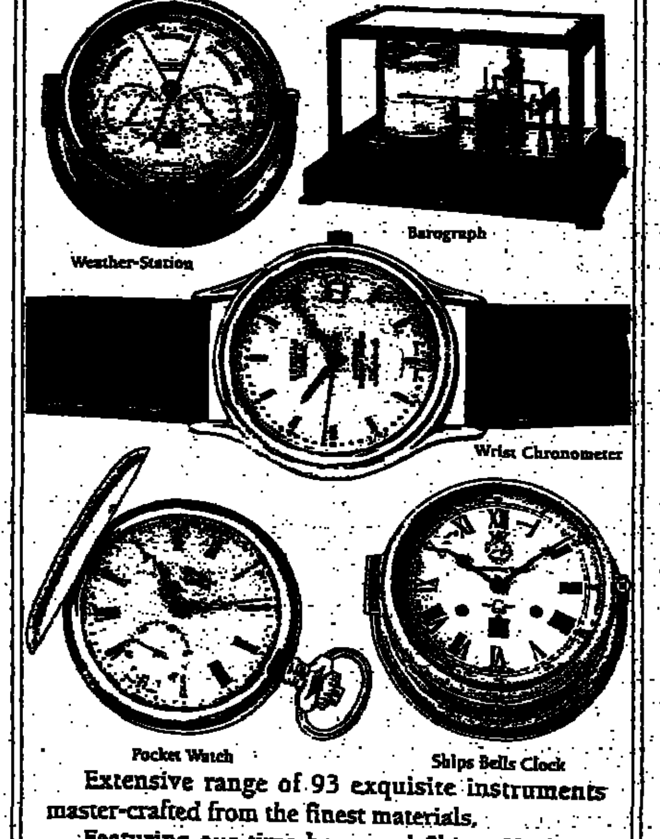

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SHOPPING

With so many Easter eggs on the market, it is difficult to make a choice. Our tasters deliver their verdicts

The good, the fab and the sickly

From left: Thorntons Teddy Egg, £3.99; Cromwells English Luxury Egg, £5.50; Mars Egg, £2.69. Right: Lessiter's Lovers, £25

Above: Marks & Spencers chocolate assortment egg, £6.99; Nestlé Smarties in a Milk Chocolate Egg, £1.99

It's chocolate time again and, once more, my tasters have been whipped into action. On several occasions we have met and forced ourselves to eat excellent Easter goodies. This year we extended our sampling to include five eggs available at outlets nationwide. To give us the child's tastebud view, I called in James Hollis, six, and his brother Anthony, four, whose parents also assisted at a post-prandial chocfest.

Thorntons Milk Chocolate Easter Egg with Edible Sugar Teddy Decoration, 160g, £3.99 from Thorntons

Good thick chocolate, a little sweet for adults, but palatable. The children liked the chocolate but did not even attempt the sugar bear, which didn't taste of anything in particular. James declared himself "a little too old for Winnie the Pooh". This egg was nice but nothing special. A good bet for under-fives, but overpriced. 6/10

Nestlé Smarties in a Milk Chocolate Egg, 190g, £1.99

This was the one Anthony would have chosen for himself. Reasonably thick chocolate but with a disappointingly small bag of Smarties inside. The elephant finger puppet to cut out on the back of the box went down well and the packaging is attractive. 8/10

Mars Hollow Milk Chocolate Egg with Two Mars Bars, 249g, £2.69

The best chocolate shell of the less expensive eggs. We felt this was the best egg in its class for family consumption and the best value for money. James would have picked this one out for himself. 8/10

St-Michael Swiss Chocolate Assortment Easter Egg, 360g, £6.99 from Marks & Spencer

This was a real disappointment. The packaging was difficult to get into and the half egg was made of milk chocolate which was too sweet and viscous ("it sticks to my teeth") and filled with chocolates. I tried the Orange Fondant Praline and found it over-sweet. Another taster described the Rio (coffee-flavoured Gianduja) as "probably the most revolting thing I have ever tasted" and, putting most of a Madrid (milk chocolate orange marzipan) into an ashtray, our host, Andrew Hollis, muttered "Swiss prices without Swiss quality". 2/10 (for appearance only)

Cromwells Marbled Chocolate Egg, 200g, £5.50 from John Lewis group

This looked good. Gold and clear packaging with a smart marbled chocolate egg, which was the best of those we tested. There is minimal information on the box, which bears no description other than Cromwells English Luxury Chocolates. However, once you crack the egg, you get a Cellophane bag containing five or six truffle-type sweets which look unappetising but taste all right. It didn't live up to our expectations, and we felt it was overpriced. 6/10

Rococo

I was disappointed by the high street eggs, so I went to Rococo. Obviously, being a specialist chocolatier, Rococo's chocolate should be superior to its mass-market cousins — but you don't have to pay a lot more. There were sugar-coated chocolate eggs decorated to look like real birds' eggs. They taste as good as they look and I plan a mixture of Hedge Sparrow (200g, £2.95) and Golden Oriole (250g, £3.25) eggs for my Easter table. Or choose the dozen sugar-coated "Quails' Eggs" filled with praline (a bag of six, £2.40; 200g, £6.95) or half a dozen real hens' egg-shells filled with hazelnut praline (340g, £17.50, or £2.95 each) in a cardboard egg box, both of which reduced the adult tasters to satisfied silence. The most glamorous Easter confection must be a chocolate duck, made of milk, plain and white chocolate, and with sugar coated chocolate eggs in its back (total 300g, £13.75). Though I had removed all identifying marks, every taster who had already experienced the Rococo effect knew where these had come from and we all felt that they were good value.

Bettys of Harrogate

We tried some of the chocolate shapes on offer. Bettys of Harrogate has a Swiss Mountain Cow (50g, £3.95), Saddle-back Pigs (box of three, 27g, £2.54) and a chocolate bear (580g) — good value at £15.95. Its chocolate was appreciated by all testers.

Lessiter's

Lessiter's makes a range of shapes from an impressive White Chocolate Swan (700g, £15.50) — which got Anthony's vote as best of the lot and scored high points on everybody's taste scale — and romantic Lovers (a rabbit and duck hugging, 1,300g, £25), to tiny, white-chocolate bunnies in top hats (45g, £1.99). Excellent chocolate at reasonable prices, and unanimous praise from tasters. The only problem we had was with the milk chocolate Koala Bear (250g, £5.50), which had such a delightful face that we couldn't bear to damage it.

Ackermans

Finally, to Ackermans, for hippos (100g, £3.40), dinosaurs (120g, £3.95), cats (60g, £2.50) and lions (100g, £3.40), all available in milk, plain or white chocolate. For any day of the year, I can recommend the orange slices hand-dipped in plain chocolate (150g box, £5.75). I'm ashamed to admit that I cannot report a test result on these because I ate the whole box myself.

On the basis of our tastings, my advice is to consider going to the experts for your Easter treats. Buy from Rococo, Bettys, Ackermans or Lessiter's and you won't be disappointed. And don't forget that children, too, appreciate good chocolate, imaginatively presented.

STEPHANIE LEWIS

Where to buy

☐ Ackermans: 9 Goldhurst Terrace, London NW6. 0171-624 2742 for stockists.

☐ Bettys of Harrogate: shops at Harrogate, York, Ilkley and Northallerton. Mail order available (p&p £5.60). 24-hour delivery, prices on request (01423 886055; fax 01423 881083).

☐ Lessiter's: telephone 017072 68002 for details.

☐ Rococo Chocolatier: 321 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 5857; fax 0171-352 7360). Mail order available. Send or fax orders by Wednesday, April 12 for delivery for Easter. £3.50 p&p for up to 10kg.

☐ Thorntons: from Thorntons shops, or telephone 01773 540550 for details.

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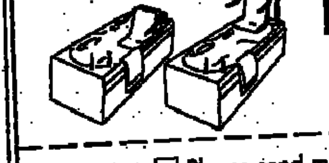

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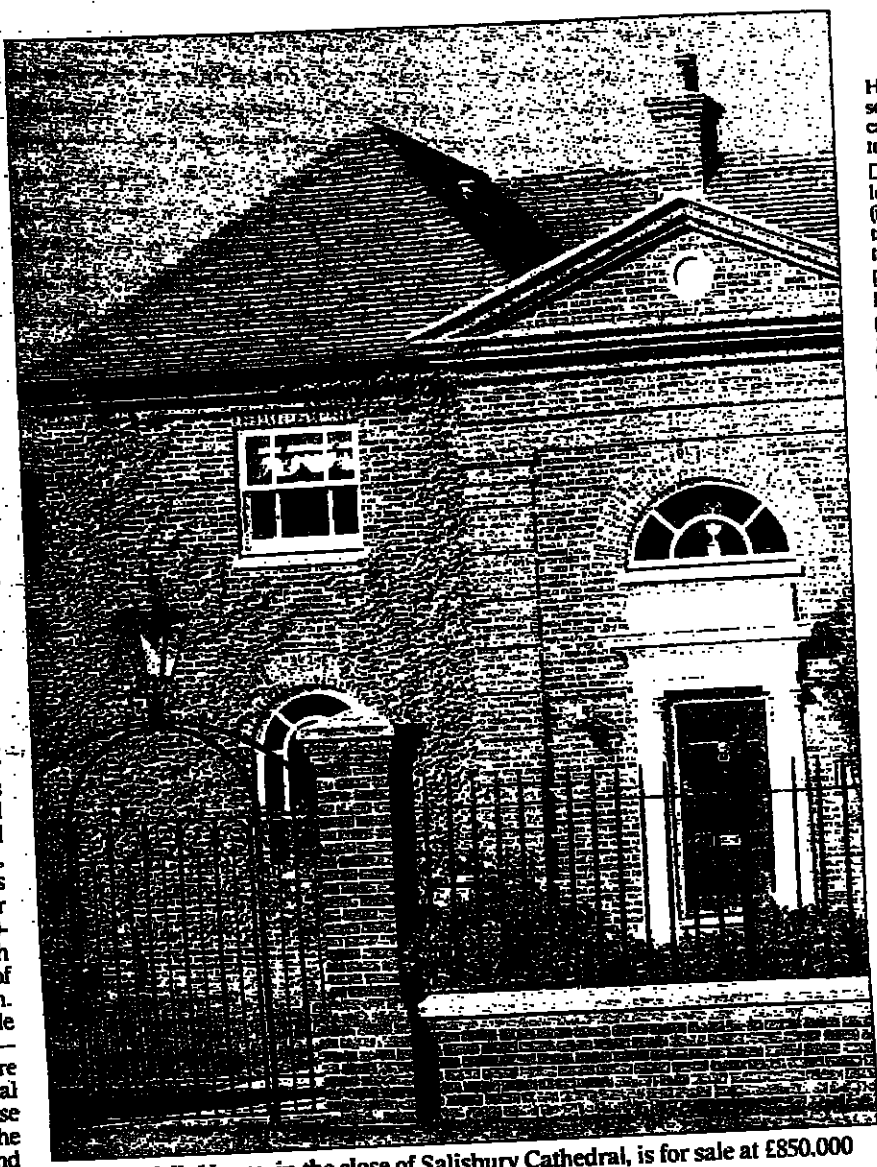
هكذا من الأصل

Homeliness next to godliness

BBC1's *The Choir* has rekindled interest in gracious houses within a cathedral close. But finding one to rent or buy is not easy



West Walk House, in the close of Salisbury Cathedral, is for sale at £850,000

The BBC1 Sunday evening series based on Joanna Trollope's *The Choir* serves to remind us of the existence of cathedral closes: sun on mellow brick, crocodiles of choirboys, days measured by chimes and lengthening shadows, a haven from the banalities of the high street and the architectural brutality of the multi-storey car park. The BBC used Gloucester Cathedral, with a smattering of Worcester, for its setting.

The first thing to appreciate is that few cathedrals have closes or precincts. Some cathedrals were elevated from being parish churches, others are modern and lack land. Also, unlike many old rectories which have been sold off, the Church authorities have kept a tight hold on their cathedral properties. Most authorities will let only on one-year shorthold tenancies, and by the time the cathedral staff and choir school have been housed, and retired clergy and clergy widows tucked away, there is not much left for other people. Salisbury, in granting 60-year leases, is an exception. But with patience, luck and a certain amount of money, others may infiltrate the sanctum.

Cathedrals with any property available to the open market keep waiting lists — often very long — and all transactions are done on an *ad hoc* basis, each cathedral authority pursuing its own system. These waiting lists are usually kept by the cathedral office on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, although in some cases chartered surveyors are appointed to handle the property.

Acquiring a "des. res." in a close is largely a matter of deadman's shoes, and most cathedral offices are not keen on a further influx of applicants as they already have enough to choose from.

However, living in a close remains attractive. The houses tend to be some of the oldest and grandest in the city, and there is little chance of an eyesore being countenanced by the Dean and Chapter. Old ways continue. For example, at Salisbury, the lamps are lit each night and the gates are locked at 11pm, with a close constable to let you in until 1am.

There is, of course, a downside. Some people may feel a certain lack of privacy living in a small, and often enclosed, community. Car parking is often a problem, and so are the groups of tourists who treat residents and their houses as cathedral exhibits.

Salisbury has one of the largest closes in England (about 65 acres) and has the most property available on long leases. The Dean and Chapter favour 60-year leases, though there is a handful of freeholds, which rarely become available, although, exceptionally, there are two on the market at the moment.

One is West Walk House, set deep in the close, with an acre of land and views over the water meadows. The house was built in 1985 in the kitchen garden of the present Bishop's Place. It has four reception rooms, five bedrooms and bathrooms, and was designed by the fashionable contemporary classicist architect Robert Adam. The sale is being handled by Savills (01722 320422) and the asking price is £850,000.

The other freehold house for sale has three bedrooms and is next door to the National Trust's Mompresson House, which has collections of furniture, china and glass, and so is on the main tourist trawl. The house was converted from the stables of Mompresson House in the 1950s. It needs updating according to the joint agents, Woolley & Wallis (01722 321711) and Strutt & Parker (01722 328741). The price is £300,000. It has no garden.

More accessible prices are possible in Salisbury close if you settle for a flat in the old teachers' training college of Sarum St Michael. The agent, Myddelton & Major (01722 337575), has three for sale: a one-bedroom second-floor flat for £75,000, a two-bedroom second-floor flat for £90,000, and a three-bedroom ground-floor flat for £175,000. Each has a 120-year lease, granted when the building was converted into 80 flats 15 years ago by Wimpey. Residents are unfortunately known in the close as "The Wimps".

Joanna Trollope would like that.

DIXIE NICHOLS

Fact file

Homes within a cathedral close are much sought after. Here is a guide to seven cathedrals which sometimes offer property to the public to buy, lease or rent.

☐ CANTERBURY. Little in the precincts leased to non-staff, and a long waiting list (inquiries to the Dean and Chapter). Those taking up property are usually already known to the Dean and Chapter.

☐ GLOUCESTER. Long waiting list, all leasehold. None available at the moment.

☐ LICHFIELD. There is a waiting list of 20-30 people. All residential properties are let on shorthold agreements. Rents £200 to £450 a month. In an average year about five properties become available out of a total of 40. Lichfield's cathedral office sends out property application forms. Telephone 01543 256120 for further details.

☐ NORWICH. Percy Howes and Co (01603 629992) handles all leasehold property in the close for the Dean and Chapter. Long waiting list. Whenever a property becomes available, the 25 who have been on the list the longest are considered. There is a five to eight-year wait. Rents range from £2,000 to £6,000 a year.

☐ ROCHESTER. Twenty-five properties, which are let on shorthold leases. Two or three available each year. Long waiting list, none available at the moment. To join the waiting list write to the cathedral comptroller.

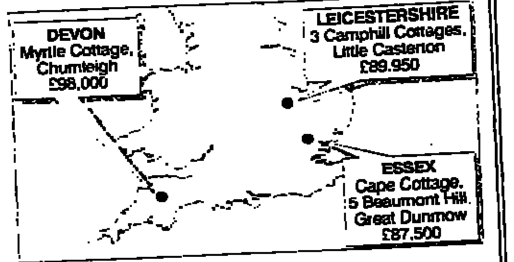
☐ SALISBURY. Mostly 60-year leases, granted by the Dean and Chapter. There are 80 flats in the old Sarum St Michael teachers' training college within the close. A good place to start looking is Myddelton & Major (01722 337575), whose offices are just outside the North Gates.

☐ WORCESTER. Occasionally three-bedroom mews houses in the college precincts, with long leases or freehold, are available on the open market. Pedestrian access only, small courtyard. About ten people registered as interested at present. One house was recently sold for £90,000 through Stewart White & Co (01905 723438). Before that, the last house sold by the same agent was two years ago.

Essex: Cape Cottage, 5 Beaumont Hill, Great Dunmow. Semi-detached thatched period cottage with 91ft garden, situated on the edge of the town. Three bedrooms, bathroom, dining room (with inglenook fireplace and exposed beams) sitting room, kitchen and rear lobby. About £87,500. (Trembath Welch 01371 872117).

FOR SALE

about £94,000



DEVON
Myrtle Cottage, Chumleigh
£98,000
LEICESTERSHIRE
3 Camphill Cottages, Little Casterton
£89,950
ESSEX
Cape Cottage, 5 Beaumont Hill, Great Dunmow
£87,500

Devon: Myrtle Cottage, Chulmleigh. Grade II listed thatched period cottage in formal gardens, on the outskirts of Chulmleigh. Three bedrooms, bathroom, sitting room, kitchen/breakfast room and pantry. Workshop and garage. About £98,000 (Staggs, 01884 256331).

Leicestershire: 3 Camphill Cottages, Little Casterton. Grade II listed stone and collyweston cottage with terraced rear garden backing on to open countryside, about three miles from Stamford. Three bedrooms, bathroom, shower-room, sitting room, dining room/kitchen. About £89,950 (Savills, 01780 66222).

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BETWEEN THE COMMONS
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WANDSWORTH: 0181-871 3033

THISTLE GROVE, SW10 £300,000
A very pretty period house with a 33ft west facing garden and requiring modernisation. 1/2 beds, bath, 1/2 receps, kit. Freehold
CHELSEA: 0171-352 1484

ALBERT BRIDGE RD, SW11
A house needing renovation with a west facing garden. Potentially 4/5 beds, 2 baths, double recep, conservatory/dining rm, kit/b'fast rm. Freehold £380,000
BATTERSEA: 0171-228 0174

THE GREEN, SW19 £615,000
Near the Common, a detached house and 2 bedroom cottage. 4 beds, 2 baths, dressing rm, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm, terrace, courtyd gdn, pking. Freehold
WIMBLEDON: 0181-944 7172

MALTINGS PLACE, SW6 £129,500
A modern house in an attractive development with a west facing garden & private parking. 2 beds, bath, recep, kit. Lease 999 years from 1984
FULHAM: 0171-731 4223

SURREY – Leigh Price Guide: £750,000
An historic, listed country house dating from the 15th century, adjoining the village green. 5 beds, dressing rm, 3 baths, shower rm, recep hall, galleried great hall, 4 receps, b'fast rm. Annexe, swimming pool, tennis court, garaging, stabling, garden and orchard. About 3½ acres.
EAST GRINSTEAD: 01342 326326 HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106

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COUNTRY RENTALS

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CANDOVER VALLEY, HAMPSHIRE
A beautifully presented house in a lovely position. 6 beds, 2 baths, 2 receps or 4 beds, 2 baths, 4 receps. About an acre. Furnished £2,000 p.c.m. with gardener

COUSLEY WOOD, EAST SUSSEX
A family house with gardens & paddock of about 2.5 acres. 4 beds, 2 baths, 3 receps, kit/b'fast. Unfurnished £1,900 p.c.m. with gardener & housekeeper

01256 398004

NEAR STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
An attractive Cotswold-stone Estate cottage in a rural location, recently modernised with 2 beds, bath, recep, kit, utility rm, garage. Unfurnished £500 p.c.m.

NEAR STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
A Cotswold-stone Estate lodge with outstanding views and 3 bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, kitchen. Unfurnished £650 p.c.m.

NEAR OXFORD
A charming Grade II listed village house, recently restored. 4 beds, dressing rm, 2 baths, 2 receps, kitchen, utility rm, parking. Furnished £1,500 p.c.m.

01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE
Near Lymington
A period manor with fine reception rooms, in a parkland setting. 7 beds, 3 baths, 4 receps, 2 flats, garaging and outbuildings, garden, lake, paddocks (let) and woodland. About 23 acres.
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

DEVON
Stockland
A fine house and separate cottage on the village edge with long views. 5 beds, 2 baths, shower rm, 3 further rms, 3 receps, kit, b'fast rm. 2 bed cottage, kitchen garden, stables, garden, orchard, paddocks. About 14 acres
Price Guide: £550,000
HEAD OFFICE: 0171-493 4106

OXFORDSHIRE
Clanfield
A traditional stone-built detached house on the edge of the village with rural views. 5 beds, 2 baths, dark rm, 3 receps, kit/b'fast rm. Dble garage, swimming pool, garden and small paddock. About 1 acre.
Price Guide: £300,000
OXFORD: 01865 311522

HAMPSHIRE
Emery Down
A village house of late 18th century origins with views over farmland. 4 beds, 2 baths, drawing/dining rm with study area, kitchen, clkrm, garage, mature garden.
Price Guide: £195,000
LYMINGTON: 01590 677233

BOOKS

After the surprise success of *Miss Smilla*, Peter Høeg takes on the theme of existence itself, says **Erica Wagner**

Having the life of their time

PETER and Katarina and August are the borderline cases at Biehl's Academy, an experimental school where the children, both normal and emotionally damaged, are run up the steep rungs of Darwin's ladder to see who will rise to the top. A good school, sure enough, with famous alumni and only 18 students to a class instead of the usual 30. Teachers are vetted extensively and there is a long waiting list for prospective pupils.

But there are also loudspeakers — instead of bells — whose blank white faces conceal microphones, allowing Biehl to monitor any class at any time. The playground is zoned off with red lines to keep certain pupils away from each other and all pupils away from the main gates lest they attempt an escape. And there are unexplained terrors: all the children of teachers are removed from the school after the son of the deputy head attempts to cut out his own tongue. It is a regime comprised of those on the inside and those left out. "For those on the outside, the fear and the abandonment amounts to almost everything; everybody knows that. Understanding is something one does best when one is on the borderline."

It is against this Orwellian background that Peter, Katarina and August come together and attempt to "turn upon the pain the light of awareness". Together they attempt to subvert the system by subverting time itself, the element which, even more than the threat of violence or the constant intimidation, controls their lives and pins them in place.

■ BORDERLINERS
By Peter Høeg
Harvill, £15.99 hbk, £9.99 pbk

The novel is as much an exploration of the nature of time as it is the story of a rebellion.

This is a fascinating, thought-provoking book. Peter Høeg has produced another narrator who never flinches from the truth as he sees it (but who is careful, as his violent upbringing has doubtless taught him, to always seem a little apologetic: "Not meaning to speak ill of anyone, but . . ." is his constant refrain) and who is bent on exposing injustice and oppression. He lets us see the damage for ourselves: never telling us exactly what happened to August before he came to the school but showing him pacing his room endlessly before being put to sleep with drugs, like a caged fox that Peter had once observed and he had noted "how all its mortal despair at being cooped up had been compressed into an endless, steady, rhythmic monotony".

The novel is a quest to escape from that monotony, for the "rich moments" where time extends out into understanding. It holds out hope for the future: we learn that Peter, grown up, has a wife and a little daughter and that, although he has not seen Katarina for 20 years, he hopes she will read this and seek him out. "If she does not have a family of her own we will tell her that she can stay as long as she likes, no-one here expels anyone."

Høeg himself is on a difficult borderline. After the marvellous *Miss Smilla's Feeling For Snow*, one might have been tempted to wonder, what next? That novel, part mystery, part philosophy, had something for everyone and had the kind of out-of-left-field success that *The Name of the Rose* enjoyed a decade ago. Peter Høeg — for so the narrator of *Borderliners* is named — does not possess the blunt charm and flirtatious cleverness of Smilla Jaspersen. But in his way he is no less intriguing, and his tale ventures boldly into a realm as mysterious and wonderful as Greenland's icy coast: that of existence itself.

Høeg: into a mysterious realm

Fame for Generation Ox

A thinly veiled Bill Clinton, a soft-focus Oxford — **Libby Purves** envies a winner

MICHAEL BLOOM

On the Rhodes to greater things: future President Bill Clinton with the class of '68 Rhodes scholars at Oxford

■ SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP
By Robyn Sisman
Heinemann, £10

IT is 1970 in Oxford: a time of Vietnam demos and filmy Annabelinda dresses at Commem balls and honey-and-brandy ice-cream at Dudley's. English Annie is at St Hilda's, courting Edward the lawyer: but Annie has a punting incident with a broad-shouldered, saxophone-playing, draft-dodging Rhodes scholar, Jordan Hope. And gets pregnant.

It is 1990. Annie is a Hampstead literary agent, married to steady Edward. Jordan is about to be elected President of the United States: he is a Democrat, with a politically pushy bottle-blonde wife and — gulp! — no son. Annie has a son, though, who catches sight of an old photograph, looks in a mirror and jumps to politically awkward conclusions about his paternity . . .

There is only one thing to be said about such a plot: "Damn! Why didn't I think of that?" It is more than a *roman à clef*: the author carries a whole chatelaine of keys which clink portentously at every step. Who can this 1970s extra be? "The pocket-sized son of a famous novelist, cocky in snakeskin boots and patterned shirt"? And who on earth can Rose be, the college friend of Annie who edits a smart New York magazine and is queen of the Briterati? Reading it, I realised that my Oxford generation has suddenly become glamorous. Saleable. There are people who think it was Camelot, and this book feeds the legend.

The publishers excitedly reveal that Robyn Sisman was "up" with Bill Clinton (as it were) and slept with an unnamed Rhodes scholar. They hardly need bother: every wistful fortysomething BA Oxon will drool over her nostalgic detail, every curious Democrat study the American edition. What they will get, in fact, is an average, cheerful, family-values romance.

And, of course, a heroine who is a literary agent. It says much for the book's artful heightening of reality, old and new, that not only does 1970 Oxford glow with a light that never was on land or sea, but the modern agent keeps snapping glitzily into telephones: "Come on Mike, this is the Freddie Forsyth *de nos jours*, and you know it. A hundred thousand!"

Whereas we all know that Commems were actually full of spotty oiks, hardly anyone could afford Annabelinda, and that what real literary agents say all day is: "Look, Quentin, even for a book review, surely you could screw it up another fiver?" Never mind. The fairy tale is, as usual, much better.

The garden expert reaches number 16

Just what the doctor ordered

SINCE the publication of his first book, 36 years ago, Dr David Hessayon has sold 37 million copies. Few have heard of him, yet last year he had three books on the bestseller lists: a copy sells every minute. Sex and shopping? Science fiction? Not exactly. "The Doc" writes gardening manuals.

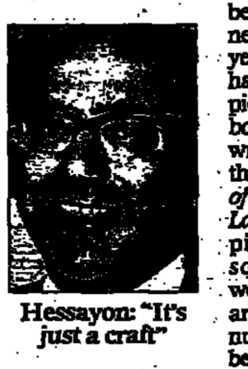
The *Expert* guides, with such formulaic titles as *The Flower Arranging Expert* and *The Vegetable Expert*, are gaudy, brash and bossy. Hessayon assumes his readers know nothing: a spider plant is a *spider plant rather* than a *Chlorophytum*. The first, *The Garden Expert*, was published in 1959, when Hessayon was a chemist for the garden-chemical giant, pbi. The sixteenth, *The Container Expert*, was published on Thursday.

For 34 years, Hessayon combined his career at pbi with self-publishing the *Expert* series. In 1993, he sold the series to Transworld. Not a man to hide his light under his *Gentiana acaulis*, he boasts: "There's no great mystery to gardening — we all want a nice garden with pretty flowers. It's a craft, like bricklaying. I just explain it simply."

Equally important, he never allows his own taste to obscure his instruction. "I don't go on about the right things to grow. You won't get any personal opinions. It's not my job."

Allied to this fearsome certainty is a writing technique that borders on the obsessive. First, he designs the page; copy has to be squeezed into the tiny boxes provided. "I never saw a piece of text that wasn't improved by cutting. No designer could put one of my books in his portfolio, but who cares?"

■ THE CONTAINER EXPERT
By Dr David Hessayon
Expert Books, £4.99


Hessayon: "It's just a craft"

Not that a designer would be let anywhere near them. For 36 years, Hessayon has jealously occupied the roles of both designer and writer. "Think of the *Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*: she drew the pictures and squeezed the words alongside — and she went to number one on the bestseller lists."

Unlike this one-off, however, he envisages at least nine more in the *Expert* series.

Yet despite all this success, a note of bitterness sounds through. Reviewers, he complains, always turn a blind eye: "They'd prefer it if I was writing about the geraniums of the Andes." Worse still are the accusations of bad taste. "The *New York Times* said my books might be all right for the British with their poor taste, but the Americans would never go for them. Last year *The House Plant Expert* became America's bestselling gardening book. That gave me some satisfaction, I can tell you."

EDWARD MARRIOTT

■ HOW LATE IT WAS, HOW LATE
By James Kelman
Minerva, £6.99

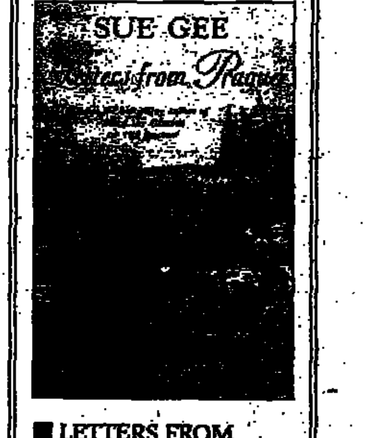
This is the book that divided the Booker panel last year. When it won, Julia Neuberger almost resigned, considering it not only "completely inaccessible" but also a disgrace. There is some validity to her charges. Kelman records the diffusive *flow of semi-consciousness* of a middle-aged Glaswegian drunk. Temporarily blinded after an encounter with the police, his inner monologue pours onto the page in broad Glaswegian, strung together by expletives. But the harsh vigour and uncompromising humour are refreshing, and a ranting lyricism sweeps the narrative compellingly onwards from non-event to non-event.

■ DAPHNE DU MAURIER:
A Daughter's Memoir
By Flavia Leng
Mainstream, £6.99

Written as a private memoir, these child's-eye recollections of the writer's unusual household lovingly evoke a vanished world. A beautiful, preoccupied woman, uninterested in material things, Daphne was happy to stay for ever in romantic Cornwall with her children. Flavia, the "plain" one, records boisterous visits from their Army officer father, the tribulations of nanny and governess, dazzling guests, social embarrassments, sibling rivalry and the consolations of a country childhood. A generous and revealing portrait of an unconventional life.

■ AN AWFULLY BIG ADVENTURE
By Beryl Bainbridge
Penguin, £5.99

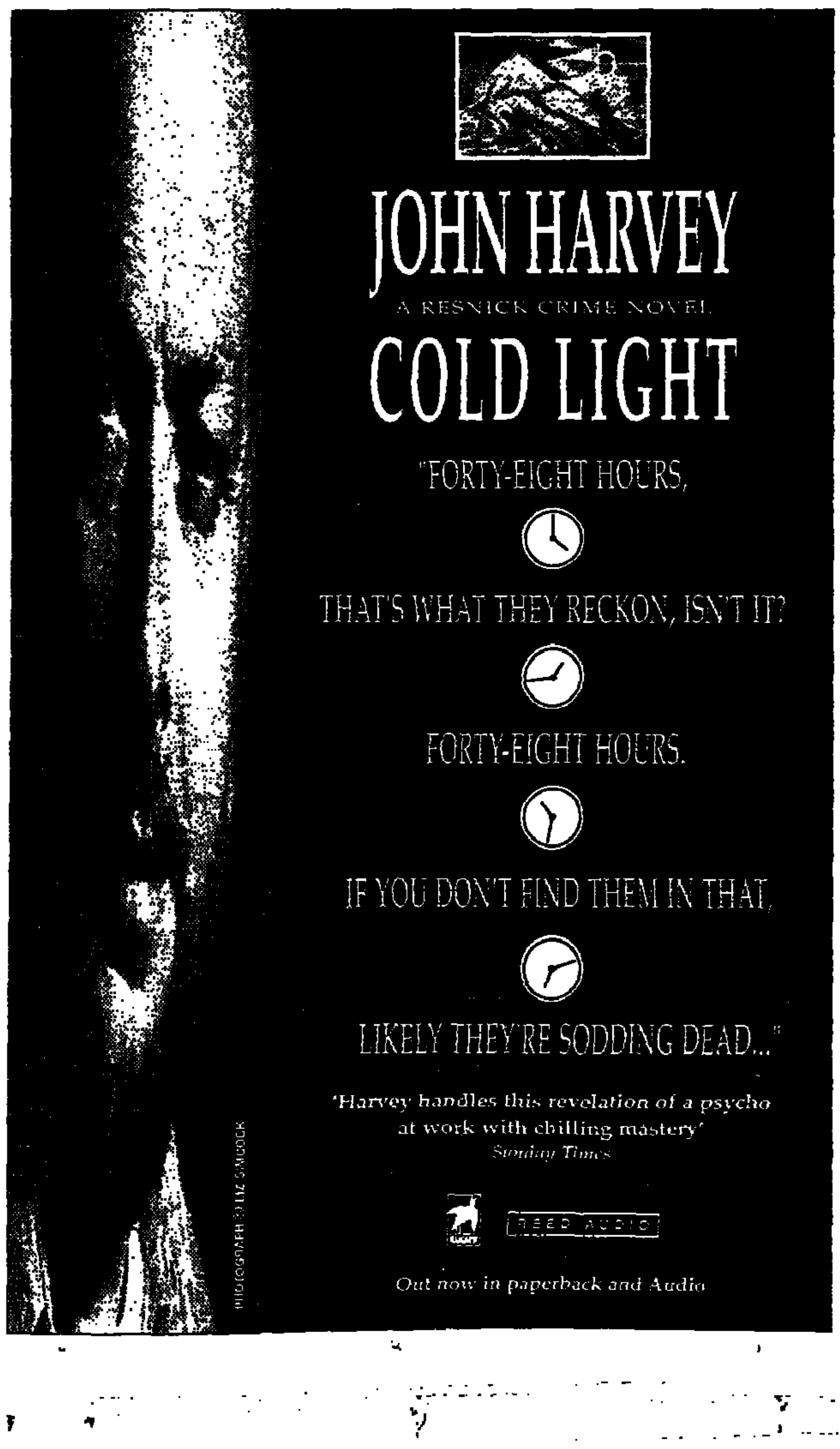
Bainbridge's novel has been reissued to coincide with the release of its film version. Stella, a stage-struck 16 year-old, lands a lowly job in Liverpool rep, where she instantly becomes obsessed with the godlike young producer, Meredith. Through her vain attempts to make him jealous, she discovers that she has considerable power over men. Everyone in this tragi-comic cast of tormented 1950s thespians nurses a guilty secret or an unrequited passion, and Stella's seemingly innocent presence becomes a catalyst for disaster.



■ LETTERS FROM PRAGUE
By Sue Gee
Arrow, £5.99

Abandoned by her husband and haunted by lost time, Harriet decides to travel to Prague in search of the boyfriend, Karel, from whom she was disastrously separated 25 years earlier. Her memories of him are entirely pure, inseparable from the recollection of his parting embrace. Yet the Karel she re-encounters has changed. It is with another man that she briefly finds love before death intrudes. This gentle novel seeks to discover abundance in loss by locating happiness in the pursuit of love rather than in its fulfilment.

● *Rachel Campbell-Johnston, Alison Burns, Nicki Household, Jason Cowley*


JOHN HARVEY
A RESNICK CRIME NOVEL
COLD LIGHT
"FORTY-EIGHT HOURS,
THAT'S WHAT THEY RECKON, ISN'T IT?
FORTY-EIGHT HOURS.
IF YOU DON'T FIND THEM IN THAT,
LIKELY THEY'RE SODDING DEAD..."
'Harvey handles this revelation of a psycho at work with chilling mastery'
Sunday Times
REED AUDIO
Out now in paperback and Audio

Faith and the pain in Spain

■ *TO THE DEATH, AMIC*
By John Bryson
Hamish Hamilton, £14.99

I CAN see why so many stories are set during the Spanish Civil War. It is one of the few genuinely idealistic periods in recent history still untainted by cynicism and spite. A just, losing cause is fertile territory.

Unfortunately, writing on the war in Spain has too often — more often that not, even while it was going on — been tainted by sentimentality and downright lies. John Bryson's achievement is to tell his tale, avoiding sentimentality, while still managing to capture the optimism of the times, and so approaching the truth.

His story is set in Barcelona as the forces of Franco advance towards the Republican city on land, the forces of Hitler and Mussolini bomb it from the air and the forces of Stalin fracture the early solidarity of the defenders from within. The narrator is a ten-year-old boy, Enric, whose twin brother Josep owes a lot to Victor Hugo's Gavroche. As the siege unfolds, both boys display scepticism, spirit and a resilient parochialism — in their case, Catalan nationalism — in equal measure.

This is where Bryson scores heavily. The revisionist temptation is to make the twins cynical in order to be "realistic". But in preserving their faith — not in politics, but in people — as the bombs burst around them, he creates a drama much more true to individuals, especially young ones, under pressure, than I have read in some time.

ROBERT CRAMPTON

Grace falls out of favour

LIBRARIANS and teachers like books to deal with an issue, so they will be foisting **Grace and Family** (Frances Lincoln, £8.99) on children (of seven upwards) even though it makes me want to throw up. In Mary Hoffman's sequel to *Amazing Grace*, bright and bouncy Grace visits her absentee father and his new family in The Gambia. I bet I'm not the only mother who wants to shout "wait until the CSA gets you" at Grace's father, smug in his sun-drenched haven while her poor mum slogs to work in rainy England.

I would rather go to Louisiana with Tynia Thomassie's **Feliciana Feydra Leroux** (Little, Brown, £9.99), a hilarious lesson in Cajun culture, written in a swinging, "Hooo, y'all" prose that begs to be read aloud (to under-sevens).

If your ewe lamb is still in nappies, you can now get miniature editions of Helen Oxenbury's baby board books **All Fall Down, Tickle, Tickle, Clap Hands** and **Say Goodnight** (Walker books, £4.99 the set) or multi-story editions of her picture books such as **At Home with Tom and Pippo** and **Out and About with Tom and Pippo** (Walker, £3.99 each).

Half of the Hutchinson **Treasury of Children's Literature** (£19.95) (for children up to 12) consists of extracts from longer titles, some easily available at full length. But editor Alison Sage has also included bits from works which everyone has heard of, but which are in truth little read. J. M. Barrie's weird account of the Darling children's flight to Neverland may astonish youngsters jaded by the bland Disney versions.

For holiday car journeys, put **The Magic Globe** by Heather Maisner (Walker, £8.99) on the back seat. It is a jollified atlas-turned-treasure-hunt that leads the seven-plus reader round the world, using travel instructions and snippets of information to help to form a mental world map.

SARAH JOHNSON

The Times / Dillons Bestsellers

HARDBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	THE BEST OF FRIENDS **Joanna Trollope** *(Bloomsbury)*	£14.99	0	1
2	A RUTHLESS NEED **Catherine Cookson** *(Bantam)*	£5.99	4	4
3	THE INFORMATION **Martin Amis** *(HarperCollins)*	£15.99	0	1
4	THE STATE WE'RE IN **Will Hutton** *(Cape)*	£18.99	2	8
5	THE JUROR **George Dawes Green** *(Bantam)*	£9.99	0	1
6	THE PRIVATE LIFE OF PLANTS **David Attenborough** *(BBC)*	£17.99	3	11
7	ELIZABETH TAYLOR **Donald Spoto** *(Little, Brown)*	£17.50	0	1
8	FREE TO TRADE **Michael Ridpath** *(Heinemann)*	£10	0	8
9	WRITING HOME **Alan Bennett** *(Faber)*	£17.50	5	21
10	FLAVOURS OF INDIA **Madhur Jaffrey** *(BBC)*	£17.99	7	3

PAPERBACK

			Last week	No. weeks
1	JUSTICE IS A WOMAN **Catherine Cookson** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	1	4
2	THE HIPPOPOTAMUS **Stephen Fry** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	4	3
3	THE FIST OF GOD **Frederick Forsyth** *(Corgi)*	£5.99	2	8
4	MISS SMILLA'S FEELING FOR SNOW **Peter Høeg** *(Flamingo)*	£5.99	5	21
5	A CHANGE OF CLIMATE **Hilary Mantel** *(Penguin)*	£5.99	20	2
6	PLAYING FOR THE ASHES **Elizabeth George** *(Bantam)*	£4.99	3	5
7	A PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIR **Edwina Currie** *(Coronet)*	£5.99	10	2
8	DISCLOSURE **Michael Crichton** *(Arrow)*	£5.99	6	17
9	PARSON HARDING'S DAUGHTER **Caroline Harvey** *(Corgi)*	£4.99	9	4
10	THE DOWNING STREET YEARS **Margaret Thatcher** *(HarperCollins)*	£9.99	13	2

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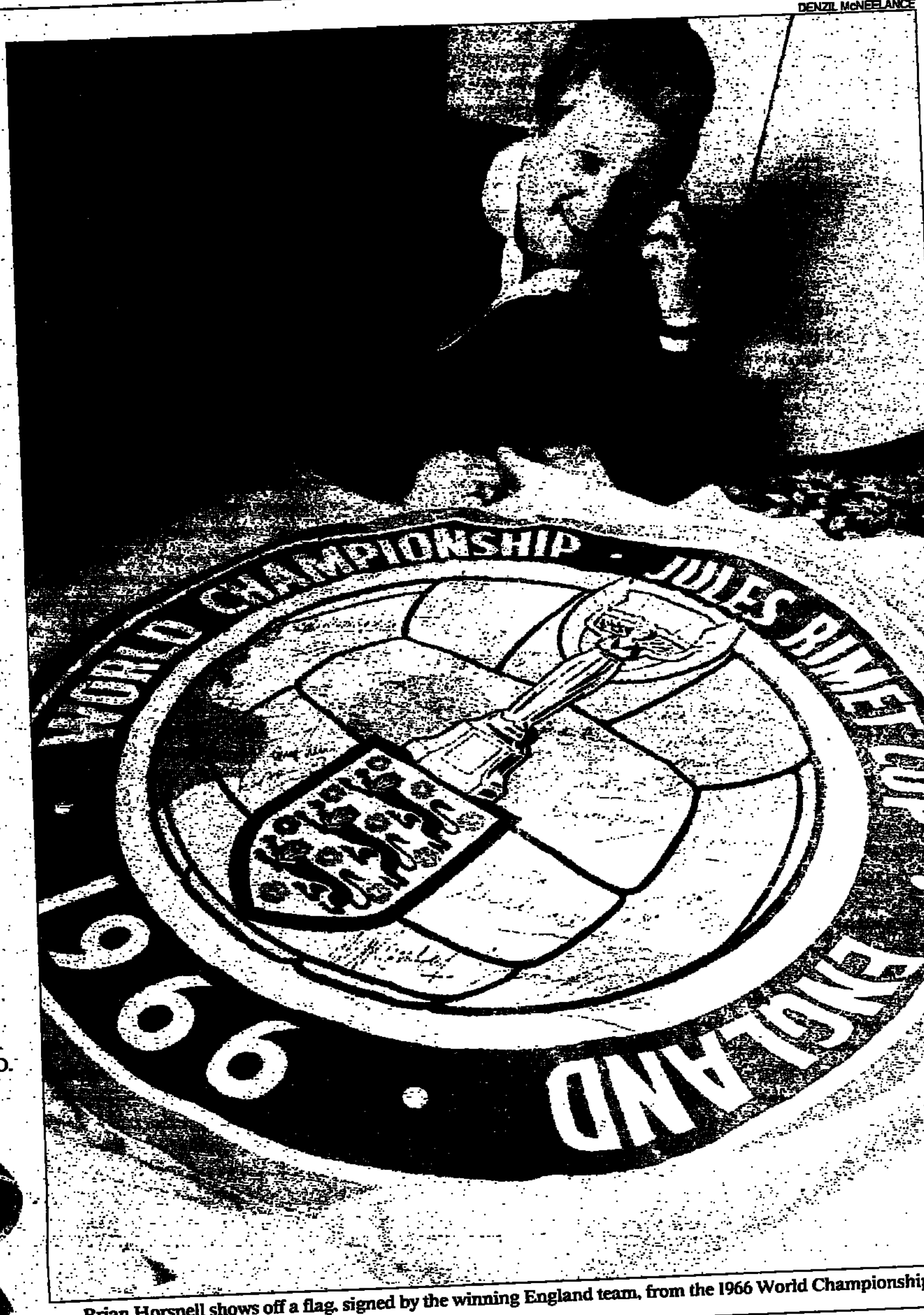
COLLECTING

A childhood obsession with soccer led not only to a career, but a wide collection of memorabilia

Football supporter in his own league


DENZIL McNEELANCE

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP · JULES RIMET CUP
ENGLAND
1966

Brian Horsnell shows off a flag, signed by the winning England team, from the 1966 World Championship

This weekend, matches involving Manchester United, Crystal Palace, Tottenham Hotspur and Everton will decide who goes to Wembley in May to contest the FA Cup and collect the coveted winners' medals.

Brian Horsnell, a collector of football memorabilia, has only a small number of old soccer medals, as many have been melted down for scrap gold. "The ones I have were rescued in 1966 by someone working in a jeweller's, who realised it would be sacrilege to melt them down."

Mr Horsnell has a presentation case containing six solid-gold medals won by William Wood, who played for Bury at the turn of the century. One shows that Wood represented the Football League against the Irish League in 1901. Another, the Manchester and District Medal for 1903, proves that Bury was at one time a more potent force than Manchester United. On a third, the heraldry is half worn away, like a well-circulated coin; its depreciation is a measure of Wood's pride — it was attached to his watch-chain, where it rubbed against his waistcoat. This is Wood's FA Cup Winners' medal — commemorating Bury's 6-0 victory over Derby County in the 1903 Final, a scoreline that is still a record.

Metal model of Old Carthusians player G. O. Smith, from the 1890s

"In the 1960s I was one of the few people interested in memorabilia like this," Mr Horsnell says. "There were auctions of *sporting* memorabilia — but that meant golf, fishing and cricket. The auctioneers would look down their noses at football items." Now Christie's of Glasgow holds an auction devoted to football memorabilia every October.

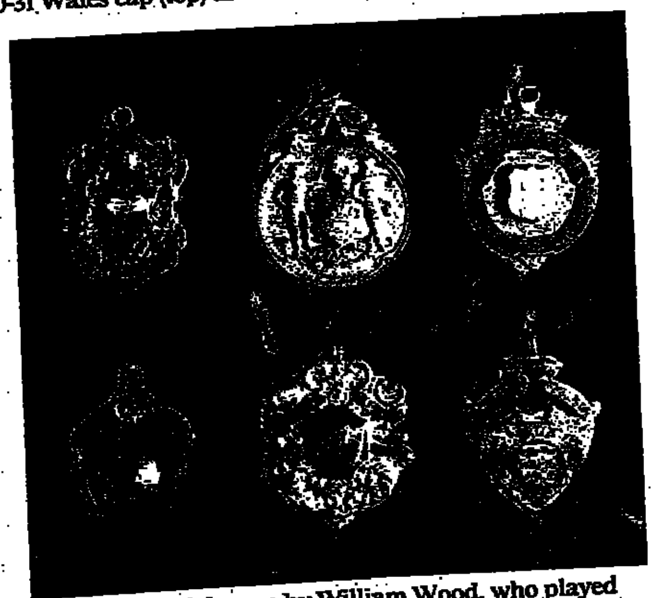
Mr Horsnell, 55, is a football journalist and has been passionate about the game since childhood. "I've supported my local team, Reading, man and boy," he says. In 1927, Reading reached the FA Cup semi-final, when they played Cardiff City (the only occasion when they reached that stage of the competition). Huntley and Palmers, which had a biscuit factory at Reading, produced Bakelite badges for supporters in the shape of an Osborne biscuit, saying "Play Up Reading". Mr Horsnell was given one by someone whose grandad had been to the game. He also has a Huntley and Palmers' biscuit tin in the shape of the FA Cup, which was made in the hope that Reading would reach the final.

Brian Horsnell has more than 30 caps in his collection including a 1930-31 Wales cap (top) and a 1896-97 Scotland cap (above)

Unfortunately for Reading supporters, Cardiff won, and went on to beat Arsenal; and Mr Horsnell owns a shirt worn by one of the Arsenal players. "They didn't have numbers on their backs in those days, but on the label it says 'Alf Baker', who was an Arsenal full-back. The match was particularly significant because the FA Cup went to Wales — the only time it has gone outside England."

Mr Horsnell's collection stretches far beyond the 1927 FA Cup. It includes a series of match programmes relating to the career of Duncan Edwards, the brilliant Manchester United player who died in the Munich air disaster. "I saw him play once — and he had everything," Mr Horsnell says. He has programmes for his league debut, his last match, even for his school international debut.

Then there are soccer postcards (Mr Horsnell is the public relations officer for the recently formed Football Postcard Collectors' Club) as well as badges, models of players, annuals and a complete set of tickets for England's 1966 World Cup games. Mr Horsnell has himself commissioned memorabilia: notably, a limited-edition plate in honour of Peter Shilton's record 125 England international appearances. "I gave him plate Number One. He was so pleased that he gave me his complete strip in return."



Above: medals won by William Wood, who played for Bury at the turn of the century. Few old soccer medals survive; many were melted down for scrap gold

A large part of Mr Horsnell's collection relates to international soccer: the first item he acquired was an England international amateur cap bearing the legend "E v B 1911-1912" and was awarded to Ted Hanney for a match against Belgium. (Hanney later played for Manchester City and Coventry City.) "A family friend gave me that cap in the early 1960s," Mr Horsnell says. In 1971, *The Sun* ran a competition, in which the prize was a full international cap from the game against Norway in the 1948-49 season, for identifying six players from the 1950s and 1960s just from a picture of their eyes and nose. Mr Horsnell won.

He has now accumulated more than 30 caps, from all the home countries. The one he would like to have is a Republic of Ireland cap, but Eire caps are harder to find because they have not been consistently awarded for every match. Wartime soccer international memorabilia is even rarer. It is thought that no international matches were played during the Second World War, but this isn't true. There were unofficial matches among the home countries. They aren't in the record books, and no caps were awarded, but after the war the FA gave every player who took part an illuminated certificate listing the matches they played. Mr Horsnell acquired, at Christie's, the certificate for Jack Crayston, an Arsenal player, who took part in the first wartime match, against Wales, in 1939.

"A lot of former players are now putting items up for sale," Mr Horsnell says. "In years to come, a World Cup Winners' medal might fetch more than £10,000." But not every item associated with a famous player or team is valuable. "I get people writing to me saying: 'I've got a ball signed by the Manchester United cup-winning team of 1994. What's it worth?' A pre-1950s old leather football, signed in fountain pen, would be collectable, but clubs nowadays sign *hundreds* of balls. They're probably not worth much even as footballs because they are not top-quality match balls. And what's more you can't even read the signatures."

STEPHEN JARVIS

Fact file

☐ A book on wartime football internationals, *Forgotten Caps*, by Brian Horsnell and Douglas Lamming, is published by Yore Publications, priced £8.95.

☐ The Association of Football Badge Collectors: Keith Wilkinson, 18 Hinton Street, Fairfield, Liverpool L6 3AR.

☐ The Football Programme Directory (a magazine about soccer programmes. Sample copy £1): David Stacey, 66 Southend Road, Wickford, Essex SS1 8EN.

☐ UK Programme Collectors' Club, 46 Milton Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 1TL.

☐ The Football Postcard Collectors' Club: Brian Horsnell, 275 Overdown Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG3 6NX.

☐ Yore Publications (Specialist publishers of football books): 12 The Furrows, Harefield, Middlesex UB9 6AT.

☐ Beejay Soccer Plates (producers of commemorative items): Sukan Sports, 2 Piggotts Road, Caversham, Reading RG4 8EN.

☐ The Association of Football Statisticians, 22 Bretons, Basildon, Essex SS15 5BY.

☐ Please send a SAE when responding to these addresses.

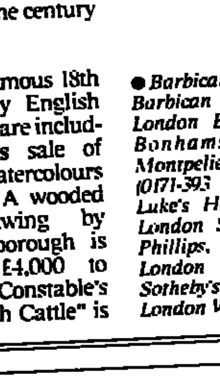
SALEROOM

PREVIEW

☐ THE annual sale by **Onslow's** of memorabilia from the *Titanic* begins today, Saturday, at 2pm. Items from the world's most notorious maritime tragedy include two unused tickets to the Turkish baths on board (£700 to £900) and a letter from the ship's chief officer, Harry Wilde, opining that the *Titanic* "is a wonderful ship, the latest thing in ship building" (£1,000 to £2,000).

☐ EASTER is marked by **Phillips** on Tuesday with the sale of two decorative Russian eggs. Although not as exquisite as the famous Fabergé eggs the Tsar gave his Tsarina on Easter morning, they are much cheaper. One in porcelain, decorated with roses and an Easter greeting in Russian, is estimated at £100 to £140, while the other, in papier-mâché and painted with the figure of Christ and the Kremlin is £200 to £300.

☐ SPORTS enthusiasts and collectors are in for a treat at **Bonhams's** sale of sports equipment and memorabilia on Wednesday. There are fishing rods at £20, as well as stuffed and cased fish, such as a mighty pike caught in 1894 (£800 to £1,200) or two grayling and a roach (£1,200 to £1,800). The equestrian section includes a glass gambling tumbler etched with the name Tod Sloan, an American jockey from the turn of the century (£80 to £120).



Sporting auction at Bonhams.

☐ WORKS by famous 18th and 19th century English landscape artists are included in **Sotheby's** sale of drawings and watercolours on Wednesday. A wooded landscape drawing by Thomas Gainsborough is estimated at £4,000 to £6,000; John Constable's "Farmhouse with Cattle" is £3,000 to £4,000; and J.M.W. Turner's watercolour of Christ College, Oxford, at £100,000 to £150,000.

☐ THE prints auction at **Phillips** on Wednesday includes works by Henry Moore (£150 to £300) and Sir Eduardo Paolozzi (£80 to £300).

☐ PRINTS are also for sale at the retrospective exhibition of works by the Pop artist, Allen Jones, at the **Barbican Concourse Gallery** from Thursday. Subjects include a shoe box and a theatrical prompt box (£750 to £2,200).

REVIEW

☐ THE star of the salerooms continues to be Charles Rennie Mackintosh, the 20th century Scottish designer. **Sotheby's** sold a classic high-back chair by him for £210,500. The estimate had been £60,000 to £80,000.

☐ THE Victoria Cross posthumously awarded to Lt Col Geoffrey Keyes after his brave but abortive raid on the headquarters of Erwin Rommel in 1941 sold for £121,000 at **Spink & Sons**. The estimate had been £90,000.

☐ DOLLS' house furniture hand-made by school children in Norfolk during the 1920s sold for £7,150, four times its estimate, at **Christie's South Kensington.**

SARAH JANE CHECKLAND

● *Barbican Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, Silk St, London EC2 (0171-638 4141); Bonhams Knightsbridge, Montpelier St, London SW7 (0171-393 3900); Onslow's, St Luke's Hall, Saint Luke St, London SW3 (0171-371 0505); Phillips, 101 New Bond St, London W1 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's, 34 New Bond St, London W1 (0171-493 8080).*

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SCOTLAND: The pre-midge month of May is the best time to embark on a cross-country hike — but wrap up well

The long and windy road

Even if the sun is shining, windproof clothing is essential in this bleak landscape

Should anyone else be contemplating a walk across Scotland, from the Border to Cape Wrath, let me offer them two pieces of advice: go in May, and take a good set of windproof clothing.

If you go in May you stand a good chance of avoiding the attention of the ubiquitous Highland midge, a ferocious insect about whose existence the Scottish Tourist Board is strangely reticent; if you take a good set of windproofs you may avoid freezing to death. I walked across Scotland in May last year: I had glorious, sunny weather for most of the month and never even saw a midge, but the wind nearly cut me in half.

The conventional walking route across Scotland terminates at John o'Groats but a canny old Scot advised me that Cape Wrath, on the northwestern tip, was a far wilder and more attractive finish. Cape Wrath sounded good to me, so I bought all the relevant OS maps, marked out a route and started my walk at Kirk Yetholm, the end of the Pennine Way on the Scottish border. My aim was to see a lot of Scotland and have a good time before I arrived at the Cape, and though it took a little time and effort, that is exactly what I managed to do.

The first leg of the walk took me from Kelso to Dunbar, partly on roads and tracks, partly on the Southern Upland Way, which I picked up near Longformacus and followed all the way to the North Sea coast. This is splendid but fairly gentle country bounded to the north by the Lammermuir Hills. Apart from various diversions before setting off — to visit Floors Castle, Flodden Field and Sir Walter Scott's home at Abbotsford — I found little to detain me until I arrived at Dunbar. By then I was up to 20 miles a day and wishing I had a lighter rucksack, since the tent and stove were clearly going to be unnecessary. Scotland has plenty of pubs, hotels and B&Bs and I saw no reason to rough it.

The Lothian coast of Scotland has the Bass Rock and the John Muir Country Park — my first intimation that the father of the American National Park system was a Scot from Dunbar. It also has a wealth of golf courses but no coastal footpath, so it was three days of dodging golf balls and caravans before I could limp into Edinburgh and award myself a day off.

I spent my day in Edinburgh trying to buy a kilt, changing my mind when I discovered that the full "Monarch of the Glen" number would set me back £700. I saw the Castle and Holyroodhouse, walked up Princes Street and the Royal Mile and staggered back to my hotel exhausted. That evening was spent at Bill Torrence's Highland Evening at the King James Hotel — I was the guest in the anorak — and just after nine next morning my hangover and I were blundering across the Forth Bridge.

So it went on, through Dunfermline and Bridge of Allan and Stirling, about 20 miles a day heading for the Highlands, which I finally reached north of Callender. Callender has three claims to fame: it is the eastern gateway to the Trossachs; it is the heart of Rob Roy Macgregor Country, and it features as Tannochbrae in *Dr Finlay's Casebook*. I spent a day here scrounging a car ride into the Trossachs, then followed the old railway track north to Strathyre, where I swung over the ben and down to Balquhidder.

Rob Roy Macgregor and a brace of his sons lie buried in the churchyard at Balquhidder, a beautiful spot at the head of Loch Voil which I followed along the north shore to Ben More. Ben More is a "Munro" — one of those 3000ft-plus mountains the hill walkers like to climb — and a battalion of "Munro-baggers" were mustering in every car park to assault the ben that morning. This left the rest of the mountains empty and I saw not a soul as I crossed the hills and descended to Crianlarich, the gateway to the Western Highlands.

The next week was pretty good. From Crianlarich I followed the West Highland Way across Rannoch Moor to the Kingshouse Hotel at the head of Glencoe. Then I went through the Pass of Glencoe, that place of fatal memory, stopping at the Visitor Centre in the glen for an update on the massacre of 1692. Pressing on up Loch Linnhe, I arrived in Fort William on a fine spring day so I took the opportunity to climb Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain. This was a mistake.

There is a choice of routes to the summit and I opted for the pretty way, from the youth hostel. By now I was fairly fit and, since there were plenty of people on the path, most of them with dogs, it did not look too strenuous. However, the summit was icy and deep in snow, the wind was vicious. Getting up and down in five hours left me absolutely shattered the following day.

Three days later, having visited the Commando Memorial at Spean Bridge and failed to see the monster in Loch Ness, I crossed the Cromarty Firth from Inverness to Dingwall and set out across the Northern Highlands, heading north and west for Cape Wrath.

If you want to go walking in Scotland and only have a week to spare, ignore all other places and head straight to Glen Oykel and the parts beyond. The mountains of Ross and Sutherland are simply glorious.

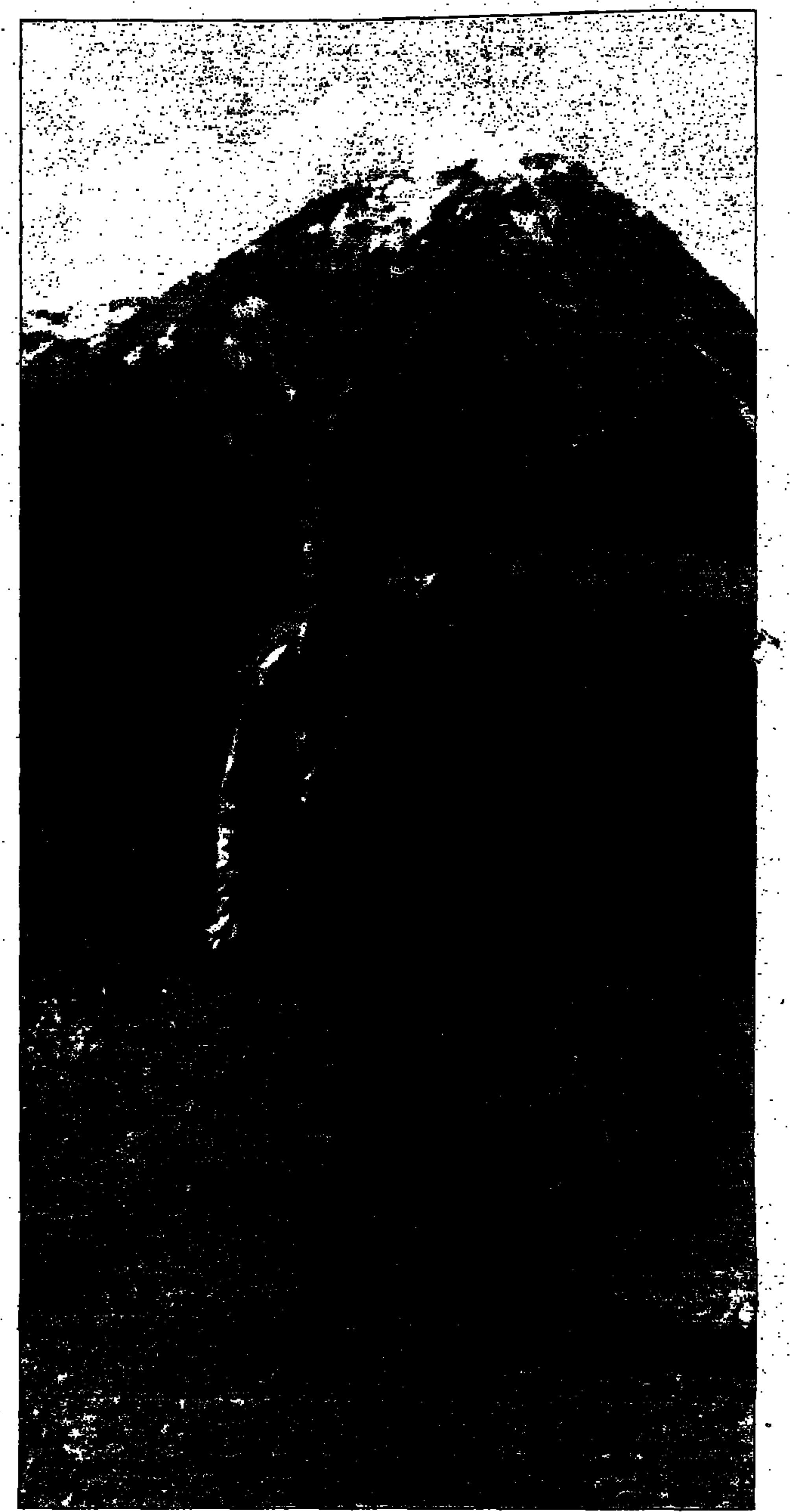
For this leg of the journey I had been joined by three companions, all experienced walkers. All agreed that we had never seen a country so wild, so beautiful, so empty, and so close to home. These hills were emptied of people in the Highland Clearances of the last century and are largely occupied by red deer, which drifted away before us as we walked from Croick to Glen Oykel, and then on past Canisp and Suilven and Ben More Assynt and a quantity of lesser peaks, inching across the map to Kinlochbervie. These mountains are not high — most of them barely top 3,000ft — but they look huge and splendid, dominating the land and the blue lochs below.

The last leg of our walk took us along the northwest coast from Kinlochbervie to the Cape and turned out to be another considerable slog. The day began well enough, with a gentle walk along the track to Sandwood Bay, from where we could see the lighthouse on Cape Wrath; getting there was another matter.

We climbed up and down an endless succession of steep hillsides, froze in the cutting wind, fell in a river, got lost, and finally crawled up to the lighthouse in the early evening, almost too exhausted to drink the wine we had carried with us for the End-of-Walk celebration.

Then a friend turned up to take us to his bothy by the Kyle of Durness, where fat seals were sunning themselves on the sandbanks. There, looking out towards the Orkney Islands, we took off our boots for the last time, pulled a cork or two and drank to our great walk through Scotland.

ROBIN NEILLANDS



Robin Neillands followed the West Highland Way across Rannoch Moor to Glencoe

Walking holidays in Scotland

☐ Robin Neillands's book, *Walking Through Scotland*, is published by Little, Brown, price £16.99.

☐ Information on walking in Scotland can be obtained from the Scottish Tourist Board, 23 Ravelstone Terrace, Edinburgh EH4 3EU (0131-332 2433) or 19 Cockspur Street, London SW1Y 5BL (0171-930 8661). Pub and B&B accommodation can be booked through the local Visitor Centres and Tourist Information Centres at prices from around £20 a night.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page *23*

ISPAGHUL
(a) A plantain, especially *Plantago ovata*, native to India and Persia, the dried seeds of which are used medicinally, the Hindi adaptation of the Persian *asp* horse + *gol* ear, in allusion to the shape of the leaves or seeds. "The mucilaginous seeds of *Plantago decumbens*, Forsk, Ispaghul, or Spogel, are used in India as a demulcent drink, especially in dysentery."

KEN
(c) A Japanese game of forfeits played with the hands and with gestures, transliteration of the Japanese. "Ken is a game introduced from China with many variations. The game was held at banquets and feasts in the Edo Period when ken meets were also held."

LOSSY
(a) Characterised by or causing dissipation of electrical or electromagnetic energy, from *loss* + *y*, a banal electrician's derivation. "At optical frequencies a metal transmission line structure would be very lossy and only transparent dielectric materials such as glass can be considered."

MISO
(c) A paste, made from soya beans and barley or rice malt, used by the Japanese in preparing various foods. Transliteration of the Japanese word. "The higher Japanese price-level is accounted for largely by such sheltered goods as red beans, miso, dried bonito..."

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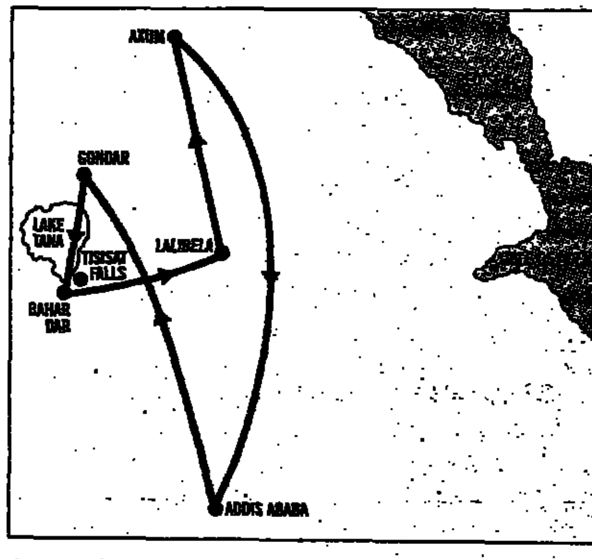

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Christianity reached Ethiopia some 200 years before it arrived in Britain. On our visit to Lalibela we will see the amazing 12th century church, hewn from the rock. We will visit the island monasteries of Lake Tana and the ancient Monastery of Debre Libanos, spectacularly located at the bottom of a large gorge through which runs one of the tributaries of the Blue Nile.

Natural wonders will also be included. The second largest falls in Africa are at Tisisat. Here the Blue Nile cascades into its gorge and begins its long journey down through the plateau and on to the Sudan.

Travellers to Ethiopia are assured of a warm welcome but must be prepared for simple accommodation outside the main centres. They will however, be rewarded with the unique opportunity of an extraordinary travel experience in a profoundly beautiful land.

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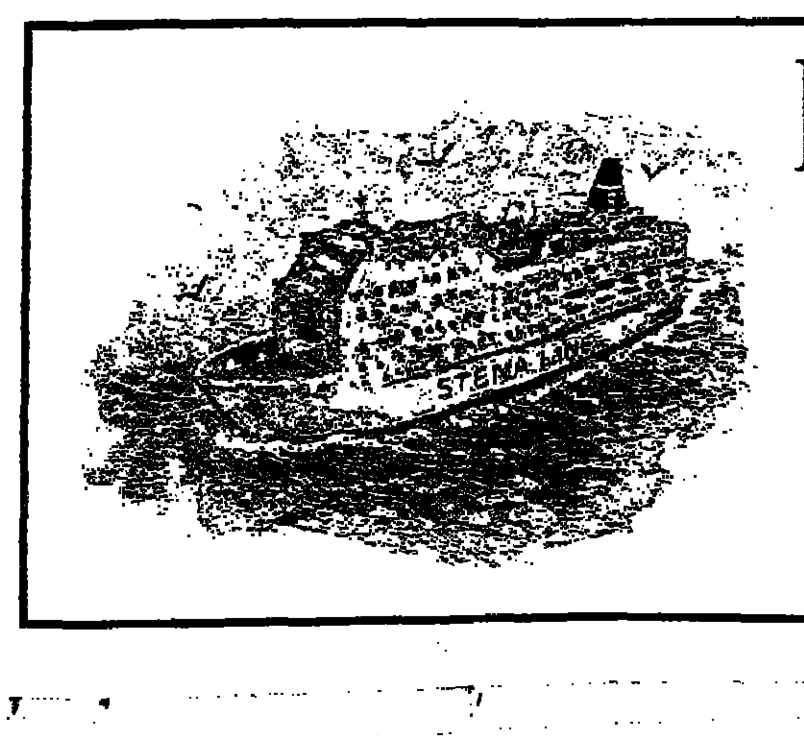

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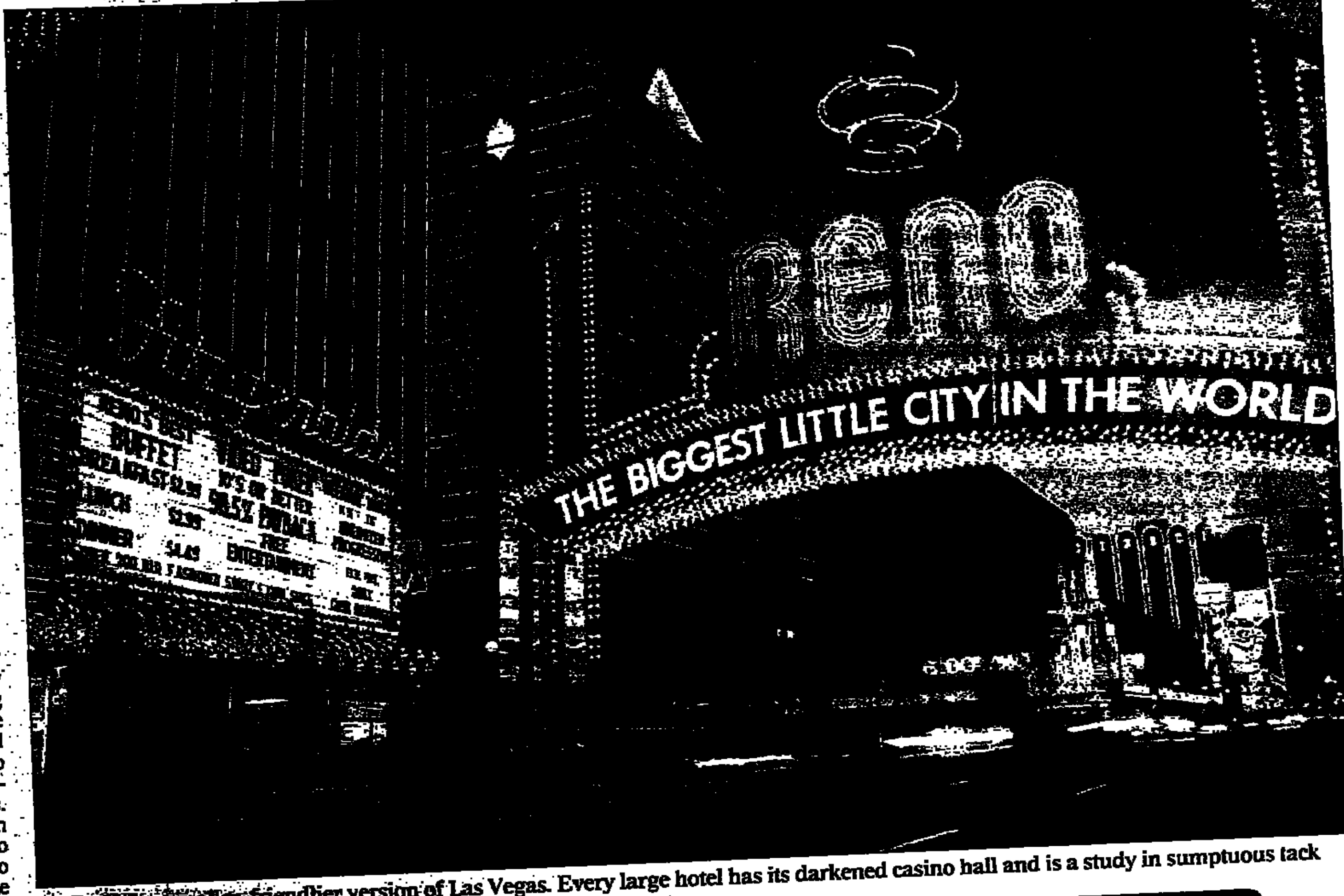
AMERICA: From the brash, worldly, desert casinos of Nevada to the tranquillity of tiny Smith Island

Breakfast with bingo



TONY STONE WORLDWIDE

Reno is a smaller, friendlier version of Las Vegas. Every large hotel has its darkened casino hall and is a study in sumptuous tack

You can get anything in Nevada, almost instantly. People come for the wedding chapels, the casinos and the brothels, counting on the enterprising and spontaneous nature of the locals. "Willing and able" was this state's first motto. On a dinner-cruise of Tahoe, the world's second largest alpine lake, I asked my waiter for a halibut and a husband, and got both: we were married by the captain, a union valid for the duration of the voyage, till dock did us part.

Nevada, the seventh largest state in America, is built on the silver and gold deposits discovered in 1859. The mines have almost expired but the gambling theme continues. Reno and its twin town, Sparks, have a joint population of 280,000, swelled last year by 4½ million tourists.

Reno, "the biggest little city in the world", is a smaller, friendlier version of Las Vegas. Every large hotel has its casino. The hotels are a study in sumptuous tack: gaudy carpeting, neon everything and 24-hour gift shops. The darkened halls are stuffed with people playing bingo over breakfast to the continuous rattle of the slot machines.

Step outdoors and you can see why the people who go to Vegas only once will return to Reno time and time again. The town occupies the Truckee Meadows, a spacious valley enclosed by sunny, snow-capped slopes; the Sierra Nevada rises in the west and the Virginia Range to the east. The Great Basin Desert surrounds this section of the state.

Most punters somehow make time for the life beyond the slot machines, finding numerous ways of enjoying Nevada's spectacular landscapes. There is river rafting, gold-panning, skiing, ballooning, hiking, golf, horse-riding and mountain biking.

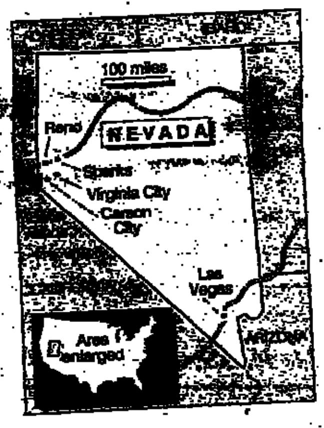
The town has an almost permanently festive atmosphere. "If there's one thing this place knows how to do really well it's party," said a visitor from Los Angeles.

The hotels specialise in summer events, many of them food-orientated; the World Championship Chilli Cookout is right here, dudes.

The posh hotels are cheaper than their British equivalents, at about $115 (about £70) a night. They are rather samey, all equipped with impressive leisure clubs and live entertainment. John Ascuaga's Nugget offers Bertha and Angel, "the world's most talented performing elephants". The Flamingo Hilton counters with American Superstars, dancing girls with stetsons, tinsel G-strings and serious blusher problems, and singers impersonating Elvis, The Temptations and Madonna.

In Reno, even luxury is inexpensive. Stretch limos, with bars, cost $55 an hour for up to six people: almost cheaper than a London Tube pass.

The casino theme is everywhere. The plaque of benefactors in the Automobile Museum is a pattern of gambling chips, sized according to generosity. The museum offers replica period street scenes and the cars of the stars, plus a batch of useless status symbols: the Flying Caduceus, a toppled rocket built to break the speed record (it didn't); the 24-carat gold DeLorean ($1,000 a month just for insurance); and the copper-bodied 1921 Rolls-Royce that needed five hours' cleaning for every one on the road.



The state capital is Carson City, 30 miles south of Reno. It is quaint and unworldly: colourful, clapboard houses; the local newspaper's page three main story on Green Veggie Bake, and the store labelled "Gold Diamonds Guns" (the shop that sells everything).

Virginia City, to the east, is a shrine to the West's racy origins: boozing, gaming and whoring. This frontier town, said to have amassed 25 saloons before it had attracted 4,000 residents, developed after the discovery in 1859 of the Comstock Lode, one of the richest seams of gold and silver ore ever unearthed. It drew an international population of 25,000. Now the city, disintegrating above 750 miles of tunnels, is a ghost town, home to just 800, and littered with deserted shacks and crumbling mine entrances.

The high street is a thriving souvenir alley spiked with helpful tourist signs ("Mark Twain was robbed here"). You can visit the Bucket of Blood Saloon, and the Suicide Table, named after the numbers driven to self-destruction from the losses incurred there. The Fourth Ward School is now a dust-drenched, cartoony museum of the charming hicksville variety.

The jewel of the state is Lake Tahoe, North America's highest and deepest alpine lake, and the ancestral home of the Washoe Indians. Now it bisects the California and Nevada stateline, 6,350ft above sea level, combining warm summers and mild winters with skin-pricking alpine beauty. The vibrant greens and blues of the landscape attracted the producers of *Bonanza* in their mission to promote colour television.

The *MS Dixie II*, a paddle-boat based at Zephyr Cove Marina on the southeast shore, provides sunset dinner-dance cruises to Emerald Bay in the west.

The lakeside is a haven for the rich and famous. Here, Robin Williams and Tom Selleck married their wives, Bruce Willis and Clint Eastwood have part-time homes, and *The Godfather* was filmed. The public relations people boast of "no graffiti, no homeless, no crime, no fast food", adding "no minorities" in tones that imply the threat of political correctness has been exaggerated.

Name-droppers should head for the Cal-Neva Resort, a deluxe hotel so called because it is built on the boundary between California and Nevada, with several rooms and the swimming pool split between both states. Prices range from $69 to $239 a night. The Resort, once owned by Frank Sinatra, was supposedly the setting for Marilyn Monroe's affair with JFK and a near-fatal drugs overdose weeks before her death. All 200 rooms have spectacular views.

Lake Tahoe, Mark Twain said, is "surely the fairest sight the whole earth affords". It is an overused accolade but, looking across Sand Harbor, where creamy sand meets turquoise water more than 99 per cent pure, disagreement seems churlish.

LUCY BERRINGTON

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THE SILVER STATE

How to get there

☐ The author flew to Nevada courtesy of Northwest Airlines (01293 561000), which flies daily non-stop from Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted (and regional UK airports, mostly via Amsterdam) to Minneapolis/St Paul, with connecting flights to Reno. Free stopovers at the Mall of America, Minneapolis, can be included. Return prices are from £344 to £550 return. The World Business Class service costs from £2,015 return. In Reno, she was a guest of John Ascuaga's Nugget, which has rooms from $59-$89 (about £36-£54) a night.

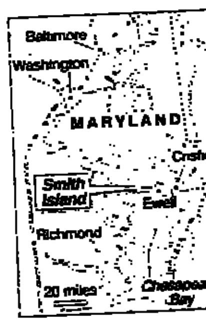
☐ Car hire for a family of four, through Northwest Fly-Drive USA (01424-224400) is from £45 a week. Further details from local travel agents.

The island lost in a time warp

In the middle of Chesapeake Bay, on America's east coast, there are some dots of dry land surrounded by marshes and creeks that go by the name of Smith Island. Guide books do not feature the island because it is such an unusual place to visit.

Most of its 600 inhabitants are decendants of the English settlers who replaced the Pocomoke and Assateague Indians after 1658, and even today they speak with an accent that owes almost as much to Elizabethan English as it does to modern American.

The islanders are all named Evans or Bradshaw, Marshall or Dize, Marsh or Tyler. In the three little cemeteries the same few names dominate the tombstones.



Smith Island is caught in a time warp. Though less than 100 miles from Washington DC, the drugs and murder capital of America, there is no crime, not even a policeman. On the other hand, there is no hospital, high school, supermarket, cinema or bar. The older children are ferried ten miles across the water to school in Crisfield, on the Maryland mainland, each day, and two small passenger ferries deliver the islanders' goods ordered from Crisfield shops. Some winters, however, the islanders have been frozen in for weeks.

The Church is the island's mainstay and the nearest thing it has to a local authority. The three Methodist chapels are by far the finest buildings and are packed each Sunday. Each July there is a week-long revivalist camp.

Smith Island depends on one industry: crabs. The "watermen" rise long before dawn to empty their pots, and their wives pick the meat from the hardshell crabs and pack the soft-shell ones, which are then sent each day to New York, Washington and other east coast cities.

The old men of the island have leathery faces and strong hands and wear faded check shirts. They talk of "jimmies" (male crabs) and "sooks" (female crabs). They exude contentment. "They'll never take me off this dump of mud," says one of them, Milton Evans, and for those seeking refuge from the 20th century it is not hard to understand his attachment.

The wild marshland rising from the bay comprises tall grasses and clumps of trees teeming with herons, ospreys and egrets. On the three patches of solid land are built the island's three communities of Ewall, Rhodes Point and Tylerton.

To arrive by boat at one of these on a summer's evening is to experience a rare moment of tranquillity. There are hardly any cars because there is nowhere to drive. The only sounds are of water or birds. Narrow lanes lead between neat, white clapboard houses, with tiny lawns and nesting boxes for blue martins — vital consumers of mosquitoes.

Most islanders have boats, and the main thoroughfare is the stretch of water you must take to travel from Tylerton to Ewall.

Slowly, things are changing. The crab harvest is diminishing. The human population is falling. Some homes are now empty shells. The younger generation is leaving the island, and next year there will be only three children left in Tylerton's elementary school, meaning it faces almost certain closure.

Tourism may be the answer, but the islanders are making few concessions yet. There is only one small motel, and the ferry times seem designed to thwart weekenders from Washington or Baltimore. But, for as long as it lasts, it is that very inaccessibility which makes Smith Island so worth visiting.

MARTIN FLETCHER

● *Crisfield is about three hours by car from Washington. The passenger-only ferries leave Crisfield for Smith Island at 12.30 and 5pm. The Smith Island Motel charges $45.36 (about £28) per person per night.*

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Fly directly from Gatwick to Aswan and escape the uncertain weather of a British summer, for a 7-night sojourn on the banks of the Nile at the gateway to Nubia. Spend seven nights either relaxing or, in the cool of the morning, participating in all or part of the suggested itinerary.

One of the most important reasons for visiting Aswan is to stay in the Cataract Hotel, surely one of the world's most delightful grand period-style hotels. Standing on a promontory the hotel has wonderful views over the Nile. There is a timeless, almost biblical quality to the atmosphere, so rarely found elsewhere where modern hotel developments can easily dispel any romantic notions. After perhaps a morning's excursion to the many archaeological points of interest, the green oasis offered by the hotel's lovely gardens is just perfect for re-charging the batteries.

Aswan was once one of the most important towns in Egypt, its position on the northern border of Nubia, meant it lay on the vital trade route with the southern territories along which gold, ivory, slaves and exotic goods passed on their way north. Today, it is a pleasant town, with interesting shops and fascinating markets.

There will be optional excursions most mornings, undertaken by road or river. For most the highlight will be the optional visit to Abu Simbel. An early start is made for the drive down the Nile Valley to this most remarkable of all Nubian antiquities, saved from the floods that would have engulfed it after the opening of the Aswan High Dam.

A visit will also be offered to Kom Ombo and Edfu to the north of Aswan as well as felucca trips to the river islands of Elephantine and Kitchener.

7 nights from £295.00 at the Cataract Hotel, Aswan

A remarkable special offer, many hundreds of pounds lower than the normal tariff, made possible by our newly inaugurated direct flight to Aswan. Just 20 places will be made available per departure at this special tariff.

The Old Cataract Hotel

Situated on the banks of the Nile, the Old Cataract is one of Egypt's best known hotels. The large and airy guest bedrooms are air-conditioned, with private bathrooms, TV, radio, mini-bar and room service. Other facilities include bars, restaurant, shop, and swimming pool shared with the adjacent New Cataract Hotel.

The New Cataract Hotel

The accommodation is in a modern building adjacent to the Old Cataract Hotel and besides its own public facilities, it also shares those of its sister hotel. All rooms have ensuite facilities and air-conditioning.

Suggested Itinerary

Please note that this is a suggested day-to-day itinerary and that none of the excursions is included in the price.

Day 1 Fly directly from Gatwick to Aswan and stay at the Cataract Hotel for 7 nights.

Day 2 Travel by felucca to the island of Philae. See also the Temple of Hathor and the Kiosk of Trajan.

Day 3 Drive to Kom Ombo and the Ptolemaic and Roman Temple. Drive on to Edfu and the Temple of Horus.

Day 4 Cross the Nile to the West Bank to visit the Rock Tombs. Continue on foot or camel to the fortified Coptic Monastery of St Simeon. Return via the Aga Khan Mausoleum.

Day 5 Early start this morning by road to Abu Simbel, saved from flooding by UNESCO and relocated on higher ground.

Day 6 Sail by felucca to Elephantine Island to see the ruins of ancient Abu and the Temple of the ram-god Khnum. Continue to Kitchener Island and see the Botanical Gardens.

Day 7 Drive to the New High Dam and continue to the Temple of Kalabsha.

Day 8 Fly from Aswan to Gatwick arriving in the evening.

Departure Dates & Prices

1995 - per person in a twin room at the New Cataract Hotel

May 1, 8	£315
May 15, 22, 29	£310
June 5, 12	£295
June 19, 26	£295
July 3, 10	£310
July 17, 24, 31	£315
August 7, 14	£315
August 21, 28	£325
September 4, 11	£350
September 18	£375
Single room Supp	£75
Nile View Supp	£39

Supplements for the Old Cataract Hotel

Twin per person	£45
Nile View per person	£104
Single room supplement	£140

Includes: return air travel, 7 nights at the Cataract Hotel on room and breakfast, services of local guide/representatives. Not included: travel insurance, overseas airport tax, Egyptian visa obtained on arrival, excursions and sightseeing programme, tipping. All prices are subject to change.

How to Book

In order to make a reservation please telephone 0171-723 5066.

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Our offices are also open at weekends for telephone reservations from 9am to 5pm.

SHORT BREAKS: **Brian MacArthur** lies back and thinks of France as he speeds through the Chunnel…

Back soon, just gone to Paris for lunch

For the millions of Britons who love France there is no greater adventure this year than a journey through the Chunnel. I have now done the trip twice, by car on the Shuttle and by train on Eurostar. Both journeys were hugely successful — blessedly free of the hassle associated with flying or sailing by ferry, and accompanied by a rare sense of adventure that was obviously shared by all the other passengers.

There is no doubt that the Channel Tunnel will be a great success. The reputation of the Shuttle, however, will depend crucially on its ability this summer to cope with the hundreds of cars that are expected to arrive hourly at Folkestone and Calais and to see them on to the trains without the sort of delays that will push customers back to the ferries.

That was shown by my experience two weekends ago. The journey to France was a fantasy fulfilled. I left Holland Park in London at 9.15am, used the Limehouse link, Blackwall tunnel and M20, and caught the 11.09 Shuttle. After a smooth 35-minute trip through the Tunnel, I was driving down the autoroute to a French lunch at Marquise by 11.50 (12.50 in France).

The return journey, however, might well have been quicker by ferry. Arriving at Calais at 4.30pm, I was booked on the 5.54 to Folkestone. On this journey, a delay of 30 minutes meant a wait of nearly two hours, made more irritating by being stuck in a car beyond the comforts of the terminal.

Using the Shuttle made a weekend break in the Pas de Calais as easy as driving from London to the Cotswolds. After a good lunch, we were drinking wine in the garden of our hotel, the Moulin d'Audenfort, a 25-minute drive from Calais, by early afternoon.

Set in open countryside alongside the River Hem, with the mill stream and a few stray trout flowing gently through the drawing room, open log fires, open house for drinks, and everywhere the soothing sound of water tumbling through the mill, the Moulin d'Audenfort was a genuine find. Rarely have I stayed in a hotel that was so unpretentious and welcoming that after dinner many guests start clearing the tables themselves.

Hugh Hutton, a former airline pilot, bought the derelict water mill at Audenfort in 1987. Since then, doing most of the conversion himself, he has made it into an "upmarket guest house" which now has 13 rooms and will soon have 17. He is helped by Bill Hays, a distinguished former television director, and his wife Catherine Schell, who starred with James Bond and Inspector Clouseau. As a team, they succeed in creating the atmosphere of a house party, with guests eating either at a communal table or in an indoor patio overlooking the river where breakfast can be eaten until noon.

There is riding near by, 350 yards of trout fishing in the grounds, a 27-hole golf course ten minutes away and, for those who always race south, the surprising pleasures of the Pas de Calais.

Hugh Hutton loves this region of France where the British rarely linger, and is an expert guide to its hidden secrets. He sent us down the Canche valley through sleepy villages surrounded by turreted châteaux and undulating landscape to Etaples, on the estuary opposite Le Touquet, for an outstanding lunch at Aux Pecheurs d'Etaples.

We then headed back inland to the small hilltop town of Montreuil, with its cobbled streets and Vauban ramparts (featured in Hugo's *Les Misérables*) before driving to Hesdin, an utterly charming market town redolent of old Flanders. Unlike Montreuil, where you sense life ebbing away, Hesdin, with its chiming bells and river running right through the centre of town, was bustling on a Saturday afternoon. Members of the Wine Society can stock up with duty-free cases at the shop there or select from a wide range of hams, sausages and Philippe Olivier cheeses.

After that there were choices: south to Crécy, where the ancient battlefield can be viewed from Edward III's tower; north to Azincourt, scene of Laurence Olivier's and Kenneth Branagh's victories over the French; across country to the cathedral cities of Amiens and Arras; or onward to the sombre memories aroused by the Somme. Our choice was Azincourt, where it is worth visiting the small historical centre with its exhibition and a short film recounting the details of the battle, before going on to the site of the battlefield, which is now open farmland. After that, there are breathtaking views across open countryside on the roads back to Audenfort through Fauquembergues, with its historic church, and Quercamps, where it is worth stopping to buy wine from the local supermarket.

Until I saw it happen I had not believed in the "booze cruise". Yet in Quercamps, buried deep in the Calais countryside and far away from any normal tourist route, I saw a father save £1,400 on the wine for 250 guests at his daughter's forthcoming wedding, at a total cost for the one-night journey to Audenfort of £172 (see panel).

After only a few months, Eurostar, the train to Paris, is already a success, and its triumph will become even greater as the service is expanded, with regular stops at Calais and Lille, where passengers will be able to transfer on to the Euro rail network and the French TGVs. For me, it was a dream come true. Never before have I travelled to Paris in such ease, style, speed and comfort.

I sampled a Sunday in Paris, the least of Eurostar's blessings since on Sundays the first train does not leave until 10.10, arriving in Paris (allowing for the hour's time difference) at 14.10. Yet by going to the Terminus Nord, a magnificent 1920s brasserie where a full meal costs about 250 francs (£33) but a main course is enough for most appetites, immediately across the road from the station, we were sitting down to lunch and enjoying the decor within ten minutes of arrival. With six hours to play with, there was time for a leisurely lunch, a visit to the Louvre, a drink in the Place du Tertre, a visit to the Sacré Coeur, where we eavesdropped on a candlelit evensong and a walk through Montmartre, before returning on the 20.10 to London which gets to Waterloo, back on British time, at 10.10pm.

If you can afford it, especially if your outing is a treat to celebrate a special anniversary, upgrade to first class for the return journey. For the extra £20, you get bigger seats, more space, the champagne starts flowing as the train leaves Paris, and there was a decent meal — medallions of pork or noisettes of monkfish on my journey — before you swoop into the Tunnel.

Eurostar offers a wonderful day out in Paris (or Brussels) but it is also now being increasingly used by tour operators for weekend breaks. It is the best treat on offer this year.

BRUNO DE HOGUES/TONY STONE

The journey to Paris by Eurostar is speedy, stylish and comfortable. Even a day trip will give you plenty of time for a leisurely lunch and some sightseeing

	French price	UK price	Saving	Total
84 bottles 88 vintage champagne	66f / £8.70	17.50	8.80	740
84 bottles non-vintage champagne	46f / £5.80	9.70	3.90	327
72 bottles Côtes-du-Rhône	8.95f / £1.13	3.50	2.27	163
72 bottles Entre deux Mers	10f / £1.26	3.80	2.54	182
12 bottles Montagne St Emilion	17f / £2.15	4.50	2.35	28
Total Saving				1,440

Wine purchased at Cours des Halles, Quercamps (00 33 21 398580), advised by Hugh Hutton

Fact file

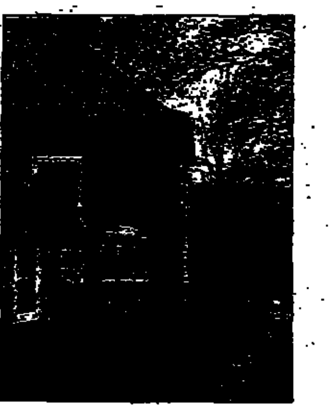
☐ The author was a guest of Driveline (01707 660011) which specialises in cross-Channel tickets. The Driveline Travel Club (annual subscription £8 per family) offers discounts of up to 50 per cent. Until July 13, it offers two nights at the Moulin d'Audenfort (00 33 21 365200; fax 21 858657), including all drinks and breakfast for £89 per person (car plus four) or £109 per person (car plus two) with P&O ferries. £10 supplement for the Shuttle.

☐ The visit to Paris was organised by short-break specialist Time Off (0171-235 8070 or 0345 336622). A Saturday Eurostar day trip with three-course meal and wine at the Terminus Nord, the Coupole, or the *Boeuf sur le Toit* costs £125 per person. Short breaks using Eurostar cost from £126-£279 *per person for* one night, £156-£468 (two nights) and £310-£1373 for seven nights, including return travel, double room, breakfast, metro pass and all hotel charges.

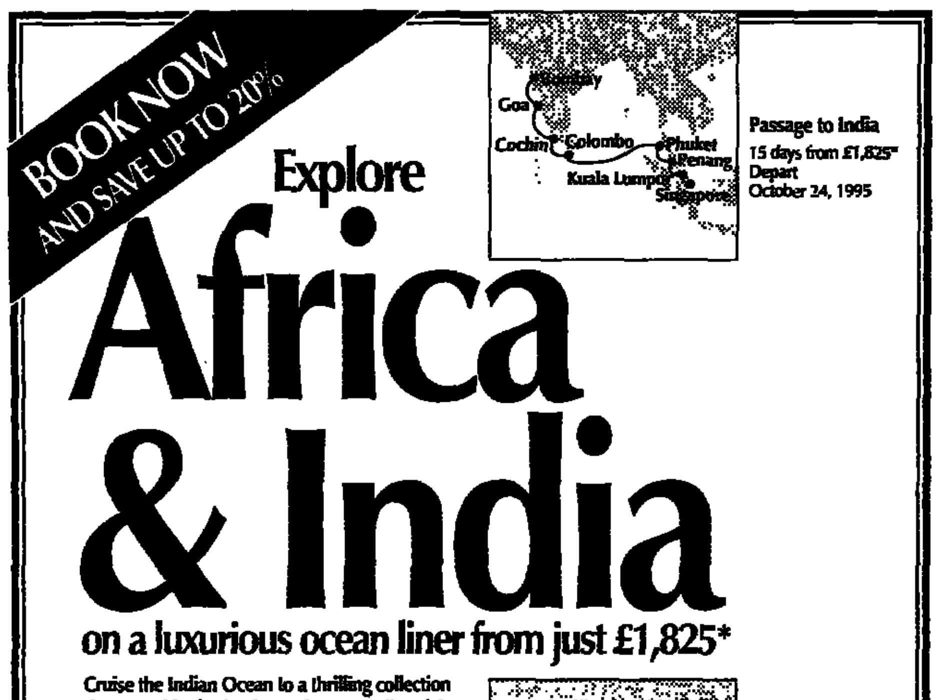
☐ The Shuttle: Up to two departures an hour, rising to up to four at peak periods during July and August. A special £49 day return is on offer this month. Short break return fares (valid for up to five calendar days and including all passengers) range from £135-£169 depending on date and time of departure. Standard single fares cost from £107-£154. Call the Customer Service Centre (0990 353535) for information.

☐ Eurostar to Paris return: First including meals: £195. Second: £155 — £95 if bought 14 days before departure. Weekend return: £125 (apex fare of £[illegible]). Call 01233 [illegible] from [illegible] (9am-5pm on Sundays) for information, availability and booking.

☐ Where to eat near Calais (all with prefix 00 33 21): Marquise: Le Grand Cerf, 875585; Wierre-Effroy: Ferme du Vert, 876700; Wimille: Relais de la Brocante, 831931 (outstanding); Wimereux: L'Epicure 832183 or Atlantic Hotel 324101; Ardres: La Fregate, 354016 (simple); Etaples: Aux Pecheurs d'Etaples, 946990 (also at Boulogne and Lille); Montreuil: Château de Montreuil (Relais & Châteaux) 815304, or Auberge de la Grenouillere (060722).



Moulin d'Audenfort



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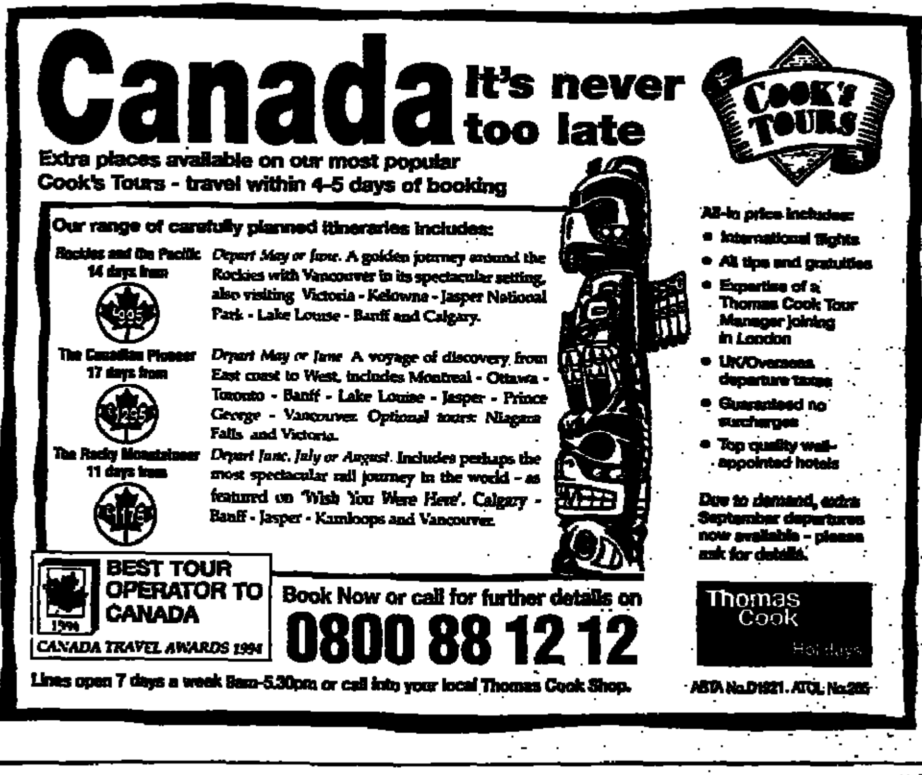

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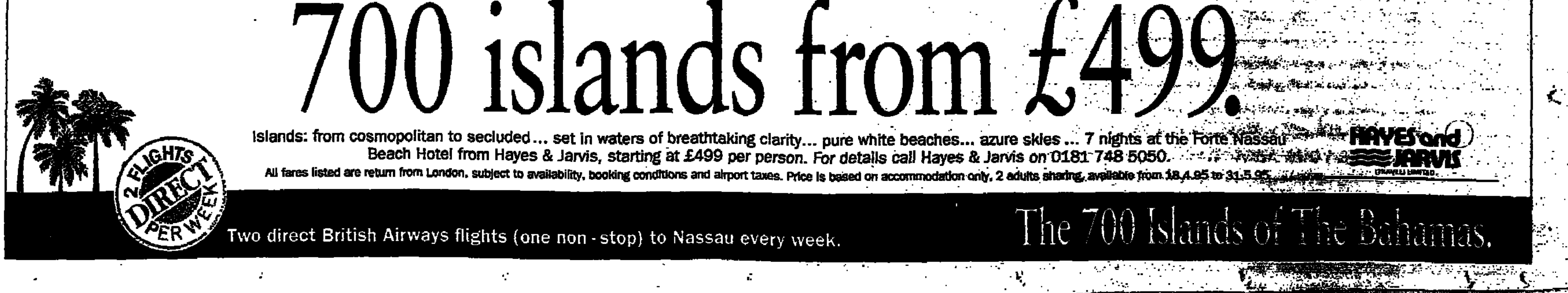

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...and **Harvey Elliott** tells of new package deals to attract more Eurostar passengers to the Belgian capital

Cut-price Brussels lures the tourists

The crowd-pulling Atomium just outside Brussels

After effortlessly becoming the polyglot capital of Europe, Brussels is now waking up to the potential impact on the city's tourism of the Eurostar Channel Tunnel passenger train.

The city is so used to receiving an endless flow of bureaucrats that few civic leaders had given much thought to attracting tourists. Indeed, they still look down somewhat disdainfully on the Belgian "leisure towns" of Bruges, Ghent and Antwerp.

With hotels, restaurants, shops and the airport packed with high-spending Eurocrats, parliamentarians, industrialists and businessmen and women, there seemed little point in setting out to attract mere visitors.

Since the Eurostar service from London's Waterloo station began, however, British tourists have been pouring into Paris on weekend "fun" breaks, and the Belgians believe that their elegant, bustling, cosmopolitan, cultured city is also capable of attracting visitors who simply want to enjoy themselves.

The Eurostar trains now regularly running under the Channel to Brussels are, however, not exactly turning away business. While the services to Paris are often 75 per cent full, those to Brussels are, at best, only half full.

Airlines are delighted by the figures, which indicate that business people still prefer to travel by air, despite all the problems of getting to overcrowded airports.

From the start of this month, however, a range of package deals is being offered through tour operators to woo the British leisure traveller.

Belgian Travel Service is leading the way with a one-night package, costing £99, running throughout April. The price includes a twin or double room at the three-star Queen Anne or Van Belle hotels, breakfast, and return by Eurostar. Over the Easter weekend, the same company is offering a one-night short break by Eurostar for £139, staying in the five-star Conrad Hotel, one of Brussels's newest and finest hotels, which has been built around a restored palace in the fashionable Avenue Louise. The hotel's young executive chef, Herve Raphanel, has been awarded a Michelin star for his cooking.

The Conrad Hotel's award for food is regarded as particularly important in Brussels, which can compete with Paris as the gastronomic capital of Europe. Belgians take their food seriously, — in part of the old town there are streets given over to the creation of some of the best dishes in Europe.

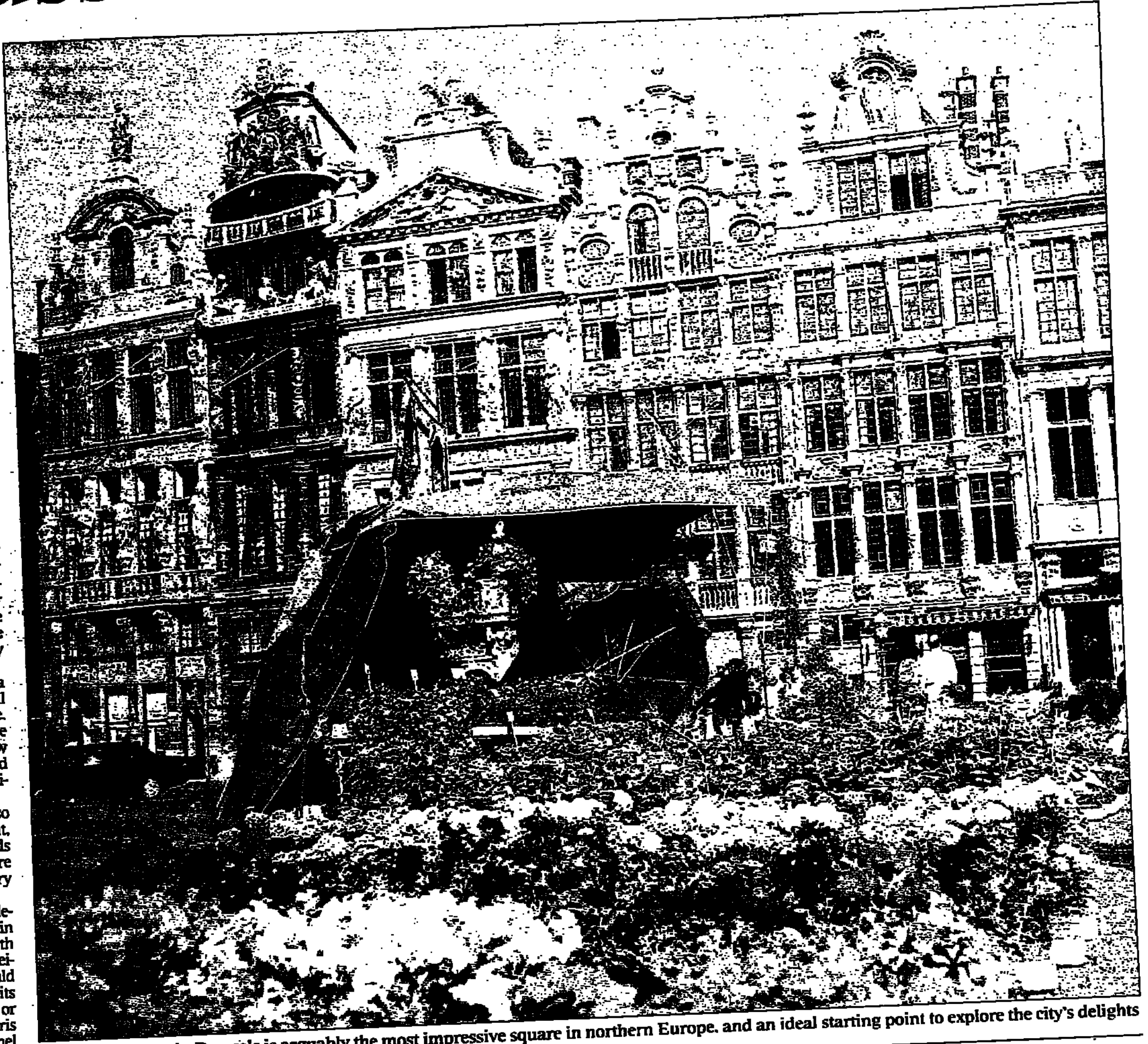
Brussels is a wealthy and elegant city and yet there are blocks of graffiti-covered flats yards from exquisite centuries-old buildings. Swathes of rambling yet fascinating streets were knocked down to build square concrete office blocks and highways. But sufficient was saved from the bulldozer during the madness of the 1960s to provide an afternoon's amble around old markets, lace and antique shops, and the Grand Place, which is arguably the most impressive square in northern Europe.

Each country has responsibility for running the railway station from which Eurostar departs. So the Belgian National Railways look after Eurostar in Brussels, but have not yet learned that, if the service is to be a success, they will have to work at it.

The departure "lounge" — a few seats and a tiny coffee stall — is dark and unattractive. There are not enough baggage trolleys, even for the few people who use the train, and there is an old-fashioned surliness about the station staff.

Waterloo station does it so much better, with a bright, cheerful concourse, hundreds of trolleys, a huge departure lounge, shops and every facility.

Now that Brussels has decided that the Eurostar train can provide the city with much-needed income from leisure travellers it really should take a look at and emulate its partner across the Channel, or face the consquences of Paris snaffling the Channel Tunnel advantage.


The Grand Place in Brussels is arguably the most impressive square in northern Europe, and an ideal starting point to explore the city's delights

Shuttle woos the tall car trade

STARTING in mid-May, owners of Land Rover Discovery "off-road" vehicles will be able to take their cars through the Channel Tunnel on Le Shuttle trains for the first time, *Harvey Elliott writes.*

Eurotunnel says that by then the first of a new fleet of single-deck car transporters will be operating and, unlike the existing double-deck transporters, will be high enough to accommodate the Discovery.

Range Rover owners can already use Le Shuttle because the car's sophisticated air suspension system enables it to "squat down" before loading, just fitting into the 1.85m-high Shuttle transporter.

But few owners of the new Range Rover 4.6 HSE, who can pay up to £44,000 for their car, have so far been prepared to take the risk that they could get turned away from the Shuttle embarkation point because their car is too tall, or could be damaged as it was loaded. So many families with Range Rovers or Land Rovers have continued to head for the ferry ports, especially Portsmouth, where regular services link Britain with the increasingly popular western France.

Some fearful Range Rover drivers spurned the Shuttle

Brittany Ferries, especially, has made a determined attempt to attract the car owner who believes that holidays start at the ferry port. The best cabins are more like bedrooms and its ships have at least one top-class restaurant, where the food compares with the best of the West End or Paris, leading the AA to name the company as providing the best food on the Channel.

The night ferry departure from Portsmouth is timed to allow drivers to lock the car away, have as many aperitifs as they wish, and still have six hours' sleep before getting behind the wheel again. You can't do that on the Shuttle.

The main attraction of travelling to France or Spain by car, at least for those who are only really tidy when forced to be so out of necessity, is that packing becomes easier. It is not necessary to cram everything into one small overnight bag or to be forced to wait for a larger suitcase to appear on the carousel at the destination airport. Everything can go into the car boot, and if it isn't in a case it doesn't matter.

The main roads in France have been much improved over the last three years and it is now possible to drive to and from the Loire Valley from Normandy and Brittany in little more than three hours.

The Loire still holds a fascination, despite the ever surprising flatness of the land, the march of the hypermarkets which have destroyed so much of traditional French village trade, and the pall of smoke hanging over the ever encroaching industrialisation which has been spawned by the nuclear power station between Chinon and Bourgeuil.

Once off the main roads there are many elegant châteaux in surprising places. My family, for example, stayed at the 12th-century Château de Marcay, near Chinon, which has been turned into a hotel whose guests can lounge on deeply upholstered settees and armchairs in front of roaring log fires and easily imagine themselves back in the times of Louis XIII.

● *The author was a guest of Brittany Ferries (01705 827701). Two nights' accommodation at the Château de Marcay, including the ferry crossing to Caen, dinner and breakfast, costs from £191 to £253 per person, depending on the time of year.*

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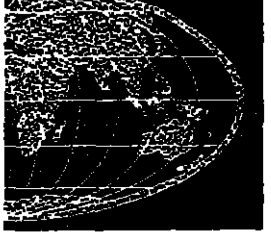

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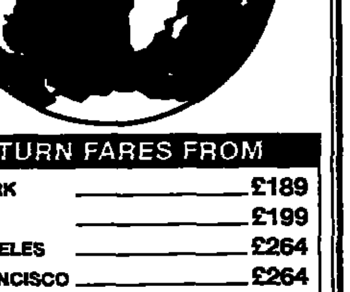

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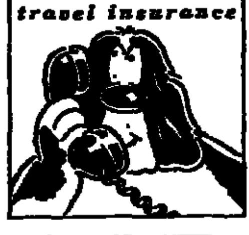

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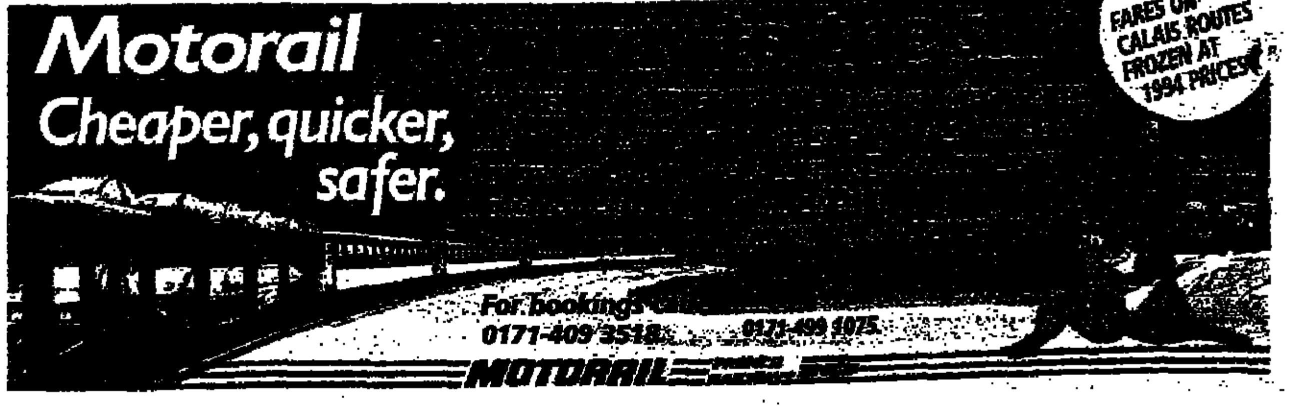

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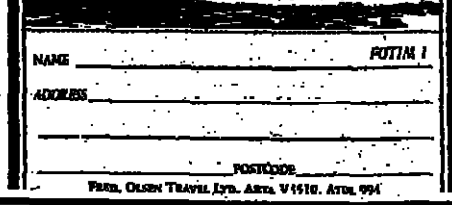

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Norma worth waiting for

Take one of the most historic and architecturally beautiful cities in Europe, mix in the idyllic countryside of the Veneto and the balmy climate of northern Italy, add to that the glorious music of the Italian masters filling the night air, and the result — the annual opera festival in Verona — can hardly fail to delight.

There are one or two minor hazards, such as a blip in the normally reliable weather. The Arena, the greatest Roman stadium after the Colosseum in Rome, is an incomparable setting, but is, of course, open to the elements. When we flew in over the mountains the storm clouds were swirling below us, and thunder, lightning and rain greeted our arrival.

No matter. All that happened was that the start of *Norma* was delayed for a couple of hours until the rain stopped. The audience would be later to bed than they had expected, but no one cared a fig. Find the nearest bar, ladies and gentlemen, and wait until you are summoned.

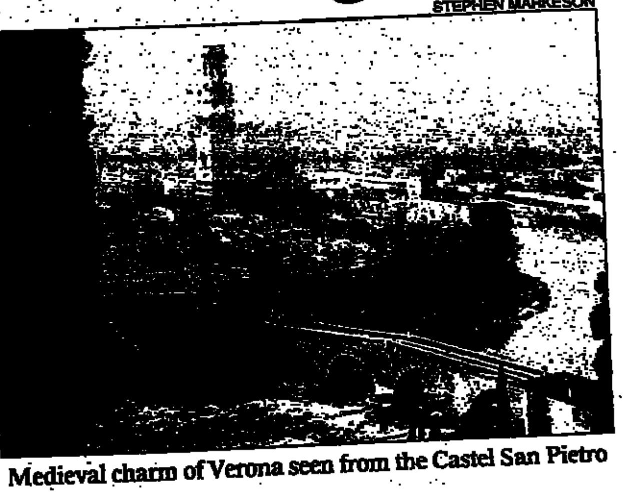
It was well worth the wait. Bellini's masterpiece needs plenty of sound and fury, and that it got in abundance from the largest orchestra I have ever seen, and from a similarly huge cast, which included dozens of cloaked and helmeted soldiers filling the highest rows of the amphitheatre solely for decorative effect.

The next evening's *Otello*, the weather now warm and dry, was if anything even more spectacular, but it must be said that *La Bohème*, our third and final treat, was a little disappointing. From further back in the auditorium than we had been for the first two performances, it was almost inaudible at times. Not only that, the cafés and garrets of 19th-century Paris did not, to my mind, really fit the setting. No doubt Italian audiences would be outraged at being deprived of their beloved Puccini, but I still think that extravaganzas such as *Aida* and *Otello* work better in the open air than do more intimate operas.

But such carping should not give a misleading impression of what was a memorable weekend. A daytime visit to Lake Garda was suggested but rejected when we were told we could expect to spend most of the day in a traffic jam and be late back for the opera. So we settled for strolls through the gorgeous medieval streets, with plenty of *vino* stops and lunch overlooking the river.

We dined one evening at a restaurant overlooking the balcony from which, we could believe, Juliet was wooed by Romeo, the romance marred only slightly by the thousands of tiny graffiti that cover every wall of the courtyard.

STEPHEN MARKESON



Medieval charm of Verona seen from the Castel San Pietro

● *John Young was the guest of Travel for the Arts (0171-483 4466), which is running three special tours to Verona this summer: opening nights, July 7-10, £720; a week including excursions to Lake Garda and Mantova, August 5-12, £975; and four nights including a gala concert featuring José Carreras, August 25-29, £885. The price includes return flight, four-star hotel accommodation and tickets for two Arena performances: extra tickets cost £85 each. The company also offers a range of other musical excursions in Italy.*

EASTER TRAVEL TIPS

BRITAIN

☐ The Great Central Railway, the eight-mile steam line between Loughborough and Leicester North, has a road-rail rally and Easter events at Quorn and Rothley stations along the route on April 15, 16 and 17. Attractions include traction engines, motor vehicles, locomotive rides and an old-time fair. Return steam rail tickets £9, children £6, family tickets (two adults, up three children) £22.50, all with free entry to Quorn rally. Tickets for Quorn and Rothley rallies only, £5, children £3. Details on 01509 230726.

☐ Cycle in the Cotswolds, based at a converted 18th-century barn near Cirencester (two nights from £99), or in Cheltenham (two nights from £80 per person). Prices are for two sharing, B&B, and bike hire. Children sharing adults' room half price. Details from Cotswold Cycling on 01242 250642.

☐ Spend five nights in Jersey from £139 per person at a 2-star hotel (two sharing, B&B), including return flights from Gatwick. Offer available throughout April, including Easter. Modern Hotels, 01534 35511.

☐ Stroll through Snowdonia on guided walks, based at a guest house in Llanfairfechan. Price, £26 per person a night full-board. Guided walks £4 a day. Countrywide Holidays, 0161 2551000.

☐ Watch minke whales off the Isle of Mull and explore the island, staying at the Sea Life Survey Mucmara Lodge. Price, £545 per person, April 17-22, full-board (minimum age 12). Discover The World, 01737 218801.

☐ The *Parents's Guide to Children's Holidays 1995* lists activity and hobby holidays for unaccompanied children, and charities offering holidays to single parents and ill or disabled children. Price £4.50 from WH Smith, or post-free from SDA, Bessborough Farmhouse, Hernhill, Faversham, Kent.

EUROPE

☐ Walk through the Black Forest in Germany, staying at a B&B guest house in Schlüchsee for four nights, April 14-17. Price, £345 with flights from Heathrow to Basle. Moswin Tours, 0116 2719922.

☐ Fly to Madeira with Cadogan Travel (01703 332661) on April 14 and spend seven nights at the 3-star Orca Praia hotel in Funchal. From £445 per person, including flights from Gatwick and B&B. Cadogan can also arrange car hire from £25 per day (minimum three days) and advise on guided walking tours.

☐ Cross to Brittany and rent an apartment at Brittany EuroVillages' Maeve Residence at Carnac. Seven nights from April 15 costs £461 for four sharing, including Portsmouth-Caen ferry crossings. For further details, call 01606 734400.

SKIING

☐ Ski in America with Crystal Holidays (0181-399 5144). Prices start from £449 per person for seven nights at the West Vail Lodge, Vail, Colorado, departing between April 8 and 15. Room only, including return flights.

☐ Stena Sealink Holidays (01233 647033) offers self-drive, self-catering ski packages at Residences Pierre et Vacances in Avoriaz and La Plagne. Prices for four people sharing a studio are from £205 in Easter week, including return ferry crossing, seven nights accommodation, six-day lift pass and ski and boot hire.

☐ Take the family to Tignes, France with Ski Esprit (01252 616789), departing April 16. Price, £315 per adult, including ferry crossing, seven nights catered accommodation at Chalet Grand Ski. Children half price. In-chalet crèche from £42 per child per week.

CHRISTINE WHEELER

THE TIMES

Four weddings and a Caribbean honeymoon

To celebrate the release on video of the much-acclaimed *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *The Times* is giving four couples the chance to win one of four honeymoons in the Caribbean, courtesy of the specialist tour operator Caribbean Connection. The destinations are Barbados, Antigua, St Lucia and Grenada.

Each winning couple will also receive an elegant Pronuptia bridal dress worth £600, plus suit hire for the groom; a pair of gold wedding rings together worth £300 from Mappin & Webb; and a case of Cordon Rouge champagne from the House of Mumm.

Two hundred runners-up will receive a copy of the video of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; another 50 readers will receive copies of the film's soundtrack.

Four Weddings and a Funeral

Destination in the sun

EACH of the four weeks of the competition will feature one of the different idyllic destinations. In Antigua our winners will stay at Blue Waters (pictured above), a quiet haven on a secluded bay where Caribbean Connection will offer a seven-night stay with bed and breakfast.

The resort's accommodation is scattered among palm trees in ten acres of grounds which lead to a beach. There is complimentary tennis, non-motorised water sports, a swimming pool and nightly entertainment.

Caribbean Connection offers the most extensive range of luxury hotels, villas and yachts in the region, along with more than 20 years of experience. The company has a department specialising in arrangements for couples wanting to get married abroad and many of their hotels offer exclusive wedding and honeymoon packages.

Four lucky brides will choose a dress worth £600 from wedding attire specialists Pronuptia Youngs. Their nationwide chain of stores offers exclusive collections by Jeff Banks and Laura Ashley plus their own label. Grooms will choose their wedding suits from Youngs Formal Wear.

Mappin & Webb, who are giving away our wedding rings, offer a wide range of traditional and contemporary jewellery. For details of your nearest Mappin & Webb branch, and a copy of their ring catalogue, phone 0171 409 3377.

● As a special offer to readers, Caribbean Connection will reduce by £200 per couple the cost of an island honeymoon taken before November 30, 1995. For further information and a brochure phone 01244 329556.

HOW TO ENTER

For your chance to win one of four dream honeymoons in the Caribbean collect any four of the eight tokens which are appearing in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Token three appears below and your fourth token will appear in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow. Send them with your name and address to: Four Weddings Contest, 5 Brittons Court, EC88 6NG. The holiday must be taken by November 30, 1995, and is subject to availability.

The winners and their honeymoon destinations will be selected at random from all entries received by the closing date of May 6 1995.

Four Weddings and a Funeral attracted huge audiences in both Britain and America.

Now it is being released by Polygram Video at £14.99 – but for five weeks only. After April 30, stocks will be withdrawn until a second release in the autumn.

Four Weddings and a Funeral
Token Three

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ABSOLUTELY fabulous slim stylish blonde 28 who enjoys the nicer things in life, seeks tall intelligent man n/s 28-40 with GSOH in London/Herts area. BMW ensures a reply. Photo please. Reply to Box No 5095

ACADEMIC lawyer, 37, seeks professional male 35-45 London based for social life & possible long term relationship. Photo app. Plse Reply Box 4890

ADVANCED level integrity, logic, education, manners, octane (!) compatibility sought by brunette Anglophile (b.1950's, 5'4") for autonomous bliss. Good looks help. C. London. Reply to Box No 5060

AFFECTIONATE attractive Thames Valley blonde 40's *vintage seeks cultured n/s man* 48+ Please Reply to Box 4984

ALLURING newcomer - sensitive intelligent brunette, 20s, very good looks - fascinated by English style/culture! Would a gentleman (26-40ish) offer guiding hand? Class and thoughtful attitude essential, if affluent - perfect. Plse Reply to Box 5023

LADIES

ALOOF but warm hearted slim, attractive, lively and adventurous prof woman 40's WLTM similar man. Skiers particularly welcome. London/East Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 5242

AM ind. lady div. spiritual enjoys country pursuits arts music. 50's model v. fit. WLTM compatible n/s male aged 50-mid 60's with young outlook Times crossword?.Kent. Box 5129

AM intelligent, discerning, slim, attractive, female, seeks an unattached, funny, romantic male (48-55) to share laughter, cuddles and lots of TLC. Photo/Phone appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 4970

A pretty physio.48 slim 5'6" warm tactile fun n/s seeks slim sensitive arts loving male 48-58 S.Herts/Lond.Photo Box 4241

ARE you academic, lively minded and aged 48-59? Do you live in the south-east, enjoy European travel, theatre, entertaining friends, walking and talking? I have just moved to the area, am 53, a graduate, 5'3", a warm personality with great grown up kids and good friends. I expect you hate this sort of thing but it won't take long to write or to find a photograph. Please Reply to Box No 5157

ARE you a man aged 47-57 who has everything except the love of a good woman? I am mid forties, fair hair, professional, easy going with varied interests. Box No 5012

ARE you a man aged 47-57 who has everything except the love of a good woman? I am mid forties, fair hair, professional, easy going with varied interests. Plse Rply Box 5039

ARTISTIC, attractive woman, 38, requires potential country bumpkin to roll in the hay with! Must also desire a communicative, loving long term relationship. Box No 5164

ATTRACTIVE. Intelligent lady, 47. Slim, petite. Independent. No children. Good homemaker. GSOH. Likes holidays, sport, country walks, animals, good food and wine, theatre, ballet, the arts. WLTM 6ftish, 50ish, successful gentleman. Must be strong, easygoing, sincere, romantic, tactile, generous, smart, n/s and have similar interests. For meaningful relationship. Surrey area. Please Reply to Box No 5197

ATTRACTIVE Anglo/Spanish woman, 34 n/s g.s.o.h. musician with international background. Intelligent intellectual, deeply aware compassionate, kind sincere, and generous. W.L.T.M. interesting well educated tall dark handsome man under 40 with international background and experience of life abroad to share passions, conversations, observations. Photo app Plse Rply Box 4980

ATTRACTIVE, slim, prof. female: intelligent with V.G.S.O.H: stylish, sociable, sporty, warm and fun-loving. WLTM attractive, solid, successful male 35+ with G.S.O.H. and a genuine desire to share fun, friendship and T.L.C. London to Midlands. Please Reply to Box No 5100

ATTRACTIVE, intelligent, charismatic fun loving lady, financially secure WLTM similar professional tall male 47+ for sincere friendship. London preferably. Please Reply to Box No 5253

ATTRACTIVE, articulate, artistic, 'appy 'ampshire Androphile, 48, aspires to any old Archimedes, Atticus or Aristotle - peculiar chaps need not apply. Reply to Box No 5026

ATTRACTIVE warm, young outlook Christian lady. Just 5'2" Just 60 WLTM tallish professional male to share the arts, fresh air, good food, family life and much more. Box 5245

ATTRACTIVE witty warm woman, living in London, seeks similar unattached male professional. 35+. Box No 5210

ATTRACTIVE alive woman seeks educated alive man age 48-59 Plse Reply Box 4981

ATTRACTIVE Lady 49 seeks well travelled cultured man for friendship. Box No 5314

BEAUTIFUL lovable 45 w.l.t.m. lover companion soulmate undaunted by her present location in Cornwall. Please Reply to Box No 5286

BEAUTIFUL feminine independent lady 33 yrs seeks gentleman. London/Home counties. Please Reply to Box No 5226

BLONDE high-flyer, sea-nymph, reluctant divorcee 39 seeks n/s high-calibre fellow-enthusiast. Initially to share good food in London? Photo plse. Box 5152

BRAINY, zany individualist, N/S (w. opera tickets) sought by pretty, Rubenesque lady 47. Bags of personality. Poor but proud. London. Box No 5147

BRIGHT, friendly, warm hearted brunette 34, seeks best buddy. Are you a good natured, thoughtful, kind, loving man looking for a happy future with someone to snuggle up and talk to? If so, I'd love to hear from you. Plse Rply to Box No 5153

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BRIGHT, lively, intelligent, attractive, graduate /professional 42, enjoys the countryside, tennis, home and garden, travelling and much more WLTM kind, caring, sincere and intelligent man for a life of fun and mutual TLC. West Berks. Box No 5347

BULGARIAN lady, 44/166, attractive, two university degrees (law & business) seeks a well-educated and hearted man for a serious friendship. Call: 003592-447933.

CARDIFF: graduate 53 years old, positive, witty, slim, active, 5'6, dark haired seeks warm hearted, articulate gentleman for friendship/romance Please reply to Box No 5141

CARING. Intelligent and attractive woman in her late 20s is seeking soul-mate for sincere, loving relationship and enjoy life with. Not looking for Mr. Perfect, just a genuine, honest guy. Please reply with photo to Box No 4894

CHARMING cultured attractive lady 49 seeks gent to share my life. Cumbria. Box No 5189

CHESHIRE Cat seeks Mad Hatter for tea-parties & lots more. Me - 42, optimistic, fit, lover of the good things in life. You - 40's, intelligent, tall, caring with a sense of humour Box No 4901

CLASSIC FM listener seeks her very own special romance. Soft-centred professional. Recently escaped from pointless liaison. Interested in arts, photography, travel. WLTM Educ. prof. 50-65. Tall, Solvent, optimistic, unattached non-Oxbridge. Intellect more important than looks. SE based. Interesting letter please. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 4979

COCKTAIL PARTY at Designer's London home. Droves of attractive, vivacious girls, 30's. More chaps welcome who, like us, are Pub Sch, career profs with hair, living in/near town. Patricia 0181 392 9009 Wknds/eves

CREATIVE, successful, female retailer, 39. Into good films, live music, travel, country weekends, Marlboro lights, dining and lots of wining. Very slim, petite, dark, attractive. Divorced. No kids. Owns business and lovely stylish flat. Missing like-minded male (35-50) To share hugs, Tesco clubcard and Swedish meatballs at Ikea. Good catch! *London/Home Counties. Please* Reply to Box No 5074

DESIRABLE Surrey lady very feminine blue-eyed glamourous blonde wearing stockings/heels or wellies, seeks youthful dynamic tall attractive upmarket stylish kind and caring n/s gentleman 46-54yrs. You should be able to compliment me, make my eyes sparkle, have a zest for life and a good sense of fun. Photo please to Box No 4961

DROP-DEAD GORGEOUS BLONDE, career girl, mid 30's would like to fall in love with cultured professional London-based man interested in foreign films, far-away places and a sophisticated urban lifestyle. Please Reply to Box No 5335

ELEGANT slim 49 seeks gentleman who appreciates feminine lady, gourmet cooking, wines, travel and worldly conversation & who avoids crowds, clubs and pubs! London or South.Reply to Box No 5080

EMBARRASSED alone? Solvent, professional and single? Then bring a (male) friend to meet 2 mid-30s independent, single females - - Interests travel, sailing, theatre & cinema. W. London Please Reply Box 4982

ENIGMATIC, lovely brunette, 5'8", slim, 50, considered early 40's. Empathetic,affectionate, sensitive, independent. Career in film production. Cultural interests. Seeks urbane, stylish man of depth, humour as soulmate, lover, friend, hopefully forever. London. Photo appreciated/returned. Please Reply to Box No 5056

EXTREMELY attractive slim elegant lady mid 40's seeking someone very special. Photo please. London area. Please Reply to Box No 5346

5'2 Eyes of blue. Attractive, well dressed lady, 55, pleasant and caring with fast car, seeks amiable gentleman preferably good-looking with love of life to share social life. Country lover preferred. Based West Country. Please reply to Box 5106.

FASCINATING female in her 60's, well travelled, many interests incl theatre, wining/dining, country walks, classical music, n/s seeks suitably sophisticated suitor. Sussex/London/SE Please Reply to Box No 5206

FRIENDLY, sorted, attractive woman (31) likes Cranberries, Titian, bronze elephants, chocolate, seeks funny, bright, honest, cuddly man to jump around with. E. Anglia /London. Reply to Box No 5299

FUN special attractive 5'8" bright educated lady looking for caring fit 50ish ex pub. sch. soulmate interested in either hist. of art, golf or travelling. *Please hurry.*Box No 5027

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GENUINE, vivacious, pretty, single, Continental lady in her mid 30's, professional, London-based and well travelled seeks similar man to share life of loyalty.Reply to Box No 5196

GOOD looking, bright, slim, independent, professional lady, in 40's WLTM kind, caring, presentable & interesting man, 5'10" or over, for romance & companionship. I like music, theatre, gardening, eating out & in, country walks. Reply with photo please Box No 4900

"GOR-JUS" eclectic slim fair 30 something seeks her soul mate. Loves tennis, riding, skiing and often finds herself singing on the stage. Happy bopping or lying on the floor listening to classical music. SW London. Photo please to Box No 5088

HELP prove to stylish well-educated, independent & civilised widow (late 50's) that work is no substitute for companionship. She WLTM similar gent (55-65), who likes town & country; theatre; gd. food & wine & travel Box 5318

HONEST, good looking, fun loving, cultured, young 57, prof. n/s lady, wide range of interests, great romantic. There must be a compatible solvent male to match. London & South. Genuine replies apprec. + photo & tel no. Box No 5300

I am a super-human tap-dancing career woman and mother of 3 wanting to go out with a relaxed, sorted, zesty man. 30-40 yrs. recent photo. S.Coast. Please Reply to Box No 5032

I don't take sugar but I'm looking for a Sugar Daddy. I'm 42, tall, blonde, elegant, loyal, erudite, well educated and enjoy life. You would be tall, of similar background. Independent, charismatic and absolutely scrumptious who wants a lady to sweeten your life! A photo would be nice. South/SW. Please Reply to Box No 5046

IF you're a 28-36 yrs. attractive, independent man who enjoys life would you like to meet your match? *Prof.*, blonde, good looking female WLTM. Photo plse London/ S.E Box 4953

I'M ripe for romance! 20's, tall, slim, n/s, very attractive, warm, GSOH with lots of interests. You are overflowing with lively grey cells and wonderful qualities that will ensnare me. Photo and tel no. apprec. South. Please Reply to Box No 5302

INCREDIBLY sexy, petite, blond lady young 40 with one cherub (6). Intelligent, creative, well travelled. Seeks solvent, caring, tallish, hunky man 35-45 (Perhaps a sense of humour!) London based, reply with photo please to Box No 5041

INTELLIGENT woman, slim, youthful, attractive upper 50's, seeks male companion combining good looks, good intellect and good SOH for mutual enjoyment of music, the arts, conversation and each other's company. London/South. Please Reply to Box No 5320

IS there life after work?! Teacher (loves the job but no time for life) WLTM intelligent, caring, n/s, prof. man, 38-50, to share life. I'm 40, 5'8", slim, thoughtful; love cinema, ballet, home-making, gardens, history, Oxford, Scotland, Venice, travel. Photo if poss. B'ham/ S.Staffs. Plse Rply Box 4977

IS this you? Racing, countrylife and sports, travel, tennis and music. I am single, n/s, 30's, attractive and like to share my interests. If you share these please write. Box No 5168

"I would rather be an older man's darling than a young man's slave." Lady, 42, N.London, interesting, attractive, intelligent, seeks mature gentleman for occasional outings. Reply to Box No 5030

KENT. Prof lady, young 41, attractive brunette. Apparently independent but with soft centre, WLTM intelligent, unattached, sincere man, preferably tall, n/s for lasting friendship. Plse Reply to Box No 5258

LAWYER 42, slim, blonde, 5'7" with 18 month baby seeks intelligent NS caring professional 37-45 to add fun & friendship to our lives. GLOS. Plse rply with photo Box 4893

LONDON based Celtic lady, tall, serene, elegant, long dark hair, ex-hippy rebel, non-smoker. Into plants/material comforts, seeks peace and happiness with man of dreams. Box No 5037

LONG-LEGGED 5'7" slim lovely brunette 40's GSOH warm n/s solvent graduate WLTM 6'+ (essential) 50-65, cultured prof gent for dancing cinema tennis life London. Box No 5364

LOVELY London lady, sporty & spiritual seeks man of depth & substance 50ish, tall, slim & fit who still has the fire and aspiration of youth. Box No 5217

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NEWCASTLE female 29 seeks intelligent, educated prof man for theatre/walks/dinner. Please Reply to Box No 5264

MYSTICAL Beauty, warm, wise, faithful. Wide interests - holism, science, business, global trekking... offers meaningful, joyful relationship to courageous, enlightened, beneficent Warrior /Magician. Box No 5323

ONCE in a lifetime offer (I'm not doing this again!) Slim (36) with children & other interests seeks someone to talk to & care about Photo pls. Midlands. Box 4899

ORIENTAL lady, 30's, 5'6", attractive, kind, gsoh, well-educated, London based, seeks quality gentleman Box No 5051

PASSIONATE about the country, food, gardening, reading; prefers pubs & friends for supper to loud parties; clothes from Monsoon to power dressing; positive living to time wasting; sharing and giving to selfishness. Professional, 29, Auburn, attractive, slim, getting fit. WLTM similar professional 30-40 for sharing fun, commitment & devotion from Cotswolds, N Wilts, Avon. Pls reply with photo to Box 4897

PERFECT figure, pretty face, intelligent, charming and sophisticated (38): me. You: Handsome, intelligent, civilised, aged 40-50 and seeking love, friendship, and fun. Central London but will travel.(No playboys or polyester, please!) Please Reply to Box No 5155

PERSONABLE brunette graduate 63 slim n/s articulate and of warm personality. Fond of the arts, travel, sport, good food and wine. Seeks fit cultured prof. man of good background and similar interests to share fun, affection and commitment. London/SE. Box No 5098

PETITE attractive optimistic 38yr old lady seeking unattached professional businessman with integrity and humour to share the good things in life. Photo please - will return. Box No 5142

PETITE, attractive, living in Pembs. is seeking solvent gent 50-60 n/s to share a life of happiness plse encl photo Box 5162

RAMPANT Rubenesque relict 49 seeks genuinely available good humoured n/s 50-ish friend & playmate who enjoys life music & books. No loss adjustors please. Surrey/Berks Border. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5105

SLIM attractive divorced financially secure lady interested in meeting tall, financially secure 49+ gentleman for travel/ romance. Herts/Essex border. London & abroad. Box No 5348

SLIM attractive, lively 33yr old female seeks male with mature attitude yet who likes to have fun, aged 33-45 (London area) Photo please. Box No 5248

SLIM, petite, attractive lady late 40's, children, warm, caring, loves family life, classical music, opera. Art, own home in beautiful Sussex village WLTM kind, cultured n/s gentleman. Please Reply to Box No 5276

SOPHISTICATED, feminine, beautiful, educated business lady, 38, 5'6", slim and elegant seeks - someone to share walks and talks with; n/s, GSOH; kind and intelligent with a refined taste, and a sense of purpose. Just someone nice to be with. Please Reply to Box No 5009

SOUTH 30-something female vine seeks a genuine, outgoing n/s prof. of similar vintage to enjoy the summer harvest. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5192

SPARKY intelligent and good-looking female lover of the arts and travel seeks high voltage 40-something male to light up her life. Write to Box No 5188 with photograph please

SPECIAL lady 50s, warm, attractive, lively seeks professional male 55-65, solvent, honourable, GSOH who shares interests town/country, current affairs, cinema, arts, music, France & Italy. Companionship - hopeful for complicite/amitie. London/N. Surrey. Please Reply to Box No 4886

SPENT 1950's in a pram? Now, intelligent, professional, successful, kind, outgoing with many interests? This like-minded vivacious sociable blonde would like to hear from you. Wirral, Cheshire. Letter & Photo app. Box No 5270

SUCCESSFUL independent lady early 50's sensitive and warm hearted with various interests WLTM gentleman of similar age. Midlands area. Please Reply to Box No 5138

SURREY based. Lovely fair lady (47) kind fun classy calm, seeks unatt. gently rugged professional man of integrity, unpretentious amicable fit n/s warm humorous articulate solvent (48-58) Coexist love explore walks travel music arts home life always RSVP photo Please Reply to Box No 5102

SUSSEX woman WLTM ordinary man, late 50's/60's, with intelligence, humour and zest for life. I enjoy London /countryside and have varied intellectual/cultural interests and would like to share life and enthusiasms with another. Reply to Box No 5263

TENNIS loving, tall, lively, n/s divorced lady, Salisbury based with double ticket for Wimbledon wonders where are the similarly qualified unattached men 45-55. Reply to Box No 5303

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TOP professional lady, 35, uncomplicated, attractive, momentarily a trifle plump but trying. Cambs., Lincs, Norfolk borders based, seeks tallish well-built, prof. Public School educated gentleman, animal-lover, interested in countryside and starting a family before time runs out. Highest discretion assured and required. Plse Reply Box 5358

TRAVELLED intellectuals stimulate and attract me, especially those in late 40's. I am all these; beautiful figure too. I have led an original life, love repartee and pals with well-filled lives. Londoner. Please Reply to Box No 5104

UNPRETENTIOUS Kent divorcee WLTM gentleman 56-69 approx to share laughter, loving - even her cooking? Please Reply to Box No 5103

V. ATTRACTIVE 5'8", 37, blonde, blue eyes, never been married, slim, VGSOH and v. caring wants to meet v. attractive professional, who likes meeting new people, giving affection & love. VGSOH, 37-42, 6' to 6'6", slim and would like to form a genuine relationship. Berks. Box No 5296

VERY attractive, Oxbridge educated female. Slim, warm-hearted, 51yrs. Seeks well-educated, attractive, caring, male, 50-60yrs, to share love, TLC, romance, loyalty, commitment and happy ever after. Photo ensures reply. Box No 5198

VIVACIOUS brunette, attractive and intelligent, sometimes wilful, would love a confident caring active 46-55 yr old to share town/country interests, travel and explore life's many opportunities. Herts based, n/s. Photo apprec. Box No 5306

WANTED: Very much alive, tall, prof. n/s city slicker 38-48. Reward: slim, stylish, fit, funloving, attractive lady. Humour essential, good looks desirable, midlife crisis optional. Herts/London. Photo please. Box No 5115

WARM, attractive, slim City prof early 30s enjoys the arts, travelling; London, country walks WLTM prof/ businessman n/s 35-45 to share her love of life Plse Reply to Box 4989

WARM-HEARTED, attractive, prof. n/s lady WLTM gentleman (40's) who enjoys theatre, (R.S.C. enthusiast!), conversation, laughter, life! May we take it from there? (E.Anglia).Reply Box No 4873

WELL maintained. Professional lady, 2 teenagers, living happily N.E. Scotland, misses male company and seeks older cupid the 2nd time around Box 4946

WIDOW (2yrs) young 65, fit, 5'2", slim, n/s. Educated, own home, car. Interested classical music, gardening, politics etc. WLTM caring gentleman, similar situation, to share fun, conversation, holidays etc N. Yorks. Please Reply Box 4973

WIDOW. Mid 50's. NS Loves family life, Golf, Bridge, Travel Theatre etc GSOH WLTM someone similar interests in South. Plse Reply Box 4998

WIDOW 60 WLTM a sincere gentleman. 5'10"+ to share life with. SE London/Kent borders. Photo would be nice. Please Reply to Box No 5213

WIDOWED blonde lady, late 50's looking for caring man with GSOH who is looking for me. 55+. London/S.East. Please Reply to Box No 5259

WIDOW, kind cultured & attractive. Half a century not out could you bowl this maiden over Box 4897 Photo plse ALA

WOMAN Graduate, professional career, cultured, personable, quiet disposition. n/s. loves classical and choir music, books, fine art WLTM financially secure confident man 55-70 similar interests to share affection and commitment. Midlands/North preferred. Please Reply to Box No 5233

YACHTSWOMAN, tall, slim 35 attractive brunette: Busy with work, sailing, travel; Enjoys opera and theatre. WLTM successful single business/ Career man who also likes taking off from time to time. Hants based but can travel: Please reply to Box No 5249

35 YR old attractive woman seeks a professional, dynamic soul mate, 35-45 to share Arts, fun, wine, jazz and even kids! South East/Sussex. Please Reply to Box No 5049

42yrs, very attractive American professional woman 5'8", divorced with no children, looking for successful, passionate n/s man under 50 to share the joys of life. London area. Please Reply to Box No 5269

LIPSTICK LESBIAN. Gorgeous, tall with streaked hair. Seeks l.l. or curious beauty with toothpaste smile. Lets meet for Oysters at LaCaprice. Photo absolutely essential. Please Reply to Box No 5075

GENTLEMEN

AADVARK. *I certainly am not!* But a Cheshire Doctor in need of T.L.C. (Possibly romance) from attractive and empathic local lady (AET: 37-55) Photo essential. Box No 5316

ABLE to make you happy? 50's businessman, seeks attractive lady in 30's/40's for courageous attempt. Home counties based. Please Reply to Box No 5174

A caring pro Mids man 33 WLTM lady 28-45 to share all life's pleasures! Letter to Box 5110

AFFECTIONATE Male, 45, tall, slim and intelligent, seeks warm attractive lady, 30-45 for kisses, cuddles and conversation. London/Herts. Please Reply to Box No 5160

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GENTLEMEN

ADAM invites Eve for weekend relaxation or long term relationship to share the pleasures of the Garden of Eden (well actually I have a sun trap secluded garden!) I could retire but am not. I could relate to a 50yr old into wholefoods and healthy living. I could (being slim fit and healthy) equally relate to a 40 yr old as be tempted to write with your Garden of Eden fantasies. Sth East Box No 5315

1995 - A dream into reality. Let's meet and find out if you are a genuine, intelligent, n/s, elegant, feminine, affectionate, lady, any status or nationality but unattached, preferably under 45, very attractive, slim, petite, below 5'4". London area or nearby, who likes to laugh and wishes to enjoy all the better things in life including countryside, nightlife, relaxing homelife, overseas travel, with plenty of TLC through an honest, caring, permanent relationship, with an attractive, unattached, successful, professional, English businessman, mid 50's, slim, fit, wealthy, and considered to be intelligent, sincere, fun loving, sociable, generous, kind and reliable. Please write with recent photograph and telephone number to ensure prompt reply. Box No 5317

A keen sailor and single professional engineer (44) seeks slim, attractive woman (30-40) to share fun and enjoy life. Sailing interest most essential, or willing to learn. Other interests skiing, music and theatre. Based 50 miles west of London, can travel. Looking for that one special person to make it all worthwhile. Recent photo appreciated. Box No 5321

AMERICAN professional, new to London, 30's, handsome, fit, would like to meet young (23-35) n/s fit woman, who enjoys having fun, outdoors variety. Please Reply to Box No 4990

AMERICAN Man, London, 6-2 writer, 55, Div. seeks lusty lover lady-kind, slim, 39-55. No ties. Photo. phone Box No 5167

AM I the man of your nightmares? If not we have to meet! I am 42, affable, comfortably solvent, amusing, decent looking, considerate, well spoken, self confident with varied town/country interests and my own hair. If you are warm, articulate, tallish, witty, pretty, proud of your own teeth and ankles put aside the *inhibitions I would hope you'd have*, and make contact. I will reply discretely to anyone brave enough to send a photo. Please Reply to Box No 5018

AM looking for someone to change my life. Professional male 34, n/s, seeks female 21-33, for friendship and possible romance. Please Reply to Box No 5108

AN enterprising graduate M.D., tall, slim, attractive, 40's, n/s, completely together and living comfortably in Oxon/Berks area. WLTM an unattached confident lady to share joys of Spring and a few risks too! Reply with recent photo and phone number to Box No 5089

ARE you nearer 42 than 30? Do you prefer holidays in the USA rather than the Third World? Do you look forward rather than back? Do you prefer a Chablis Premiere Cru to a [illegible] Champagne? Do you prefer a man who runs his own business, despite the risks, rather than one who bows the knee to a PLC? Do you prefer stockings to tights? (A state of mind - not a sexist query!) Are you looking for a Soul-mate rather than a husband? (one does not preclude the other, but should not be a given) If all your replies are yes & you would like to meet a 6'2", strong willed, allegedly good looking n/s man who is reviewing his priorities around his half century, send a letter photo & Ph no. Box 4792

ARE you looking for a tall, slim/medium male who is financially secure, handsome, affectionate and caring who likes music, travel, walks in the country, eating in and out? You've found me. I am 41, with a responsible airport job and a part-time author. I seek lady 30-41 with whom to share everything. London/Home Counties. Please Reply to Box No 5280

ARE you the successor of Wanda von Dunajew? I am Severin's double! I WLTM you! London based.Box No 4647

ATTRACTIVE, available female (30/40) sought for Riviera by 6ft. slim, attractive, affluent, francophile. Box No 5236

BATTERSEA man, 29, professional, into sport, London life, country weekends, wining, dining, laughs and generally not taking life too seriously. Hoping to be swept off his feet by witty, attractive, intelligent lady 25-32, prof. with own hair and teeth. Please Reply Box 5365.

BELGRAVIA based, successful Co. Director early 40's. Looking for independent stylish sophisticate to become the lady in his life. Photo appreciated Please Reply to Box No 5250

BERKS/Oxon man, 45, n/s, professional, solvent. WLTM mildly eccentric lady 30/45, with SOH, love of countryside, classical music, and travel. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5036

CARING & attractive youthful 44 enjoying benefits of successful professional career. Seeks sincere home/country loving N/S younger attractive lady to share good things in life. Photo app. Scotland Box No 4879

CHANNEL Islands 6'2" very fit, handsome, prof. gentleman 48 seeks attractive, tall, intelligent lady with good athletic figure. Must love sun, art and France. A lasting partnership in mind would mean settling in beautiful C.I. Ltr & photo plse Box 5247

CHASING Dreams? Tall, slim, athletic, intelligent, hard-working man, 45, full of ideas, energy and purpose, seeks woman ready to have fun, travel, love a lot and consider having a child. I am in London. Please reply to Box No 5296

CHESTER based grad. prof. seeks 20-38 single lady of substance! Please Reply to Box No 5151

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CHESHIRE: North Wales professional, 40's, lean, active, loves shared outdoors, log fires & travel. Humour essential. Photo please. A.L.A. Box No 5208

COMPANY Chairman looks 40, living in the West End looking for a genuine loving relationship with a special young lady. I am kind, sensitive, honest, gentle and loving, very humorous and intelligent and would like to meet someone similar aged between 20 and 40. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5214

CONTINENTAL professional WLTM attractive tactile cuddly tallish lady early fifties for fun theatre travel. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 5002

CROSSWORD help needed by keen golfer, hill-walker & opera lover. Attractive, shy, adventurous, 5'10" Cotswold man, 40, W.L.T.M slim, unattached n/s lady, 30 - 40 to share interests. Box No 4937

DECENT bloke, 39, recently returned to London after three years in the US, now home alone, OK-looking and in surprisingly good nick. Needs permanent distraction from absorbing job. Perfect would be a bright, articulate, creative, sexy, honest twenty/thirty something who is curious about this ad. Likes are music, motorbikes, books, hanging-out and the like. NDTB (not done this before) but you never know. Letter and a photo would be a good start. Pls rply Box 4939

DESIRABLE divorced, middle-aged male lecturer seeks very intelligent attractive young woman (25-45) to interrupt or even share creative smokefree solitude (Manchester area). Please Reply to Box No 5139

DIVORCED professional gentleman would like to meet lady aged betwwen 45 and 56 for serious relationship. Please Reply to Box No 5199

DOCTOR divorced in his 50's but full of energy, outgoing, passionate, n/s seeks young lady companion. Please reply with telephone no. to Box No 5221

DO you, like me, need sharing and closeness no less than space and independence, enjoy inter alia conversation, movies, Schubert, backrubs, plays, Late Show, gossip, punting, Jo Brand, children, Vanity Fair, Musée D'Orsay, late-late Melody FM, travel, Spectator, country walks, argument (not arguments). Mad summers? Mildly disreputable but successful divorced journalist, fit, slim, amusing, travelled, tactile, affectionate, post-midlife-crisis-mellowed but allegedly youthful, seeks long-term synergistic relationship with sympatico woman who is comfortable with herself, spirited, warm, funny, romantic, gregarious, open-minded, of like sensibilities. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 5292

DROP me a line- If you are a cultured, refined lady about 40, with a trim, attractive figure- if you are non-working, with lots of free time, possibly bored- and living within M25- I'd like your company for outings, travel, clean fun, friendship without pressure or complications. I am a Sagittarian gentleman, early 50's, London resident continental, slim, fit, averg. height, independent means, cosmopolitan leisurely lifestyle, cultured, distinguished with old-fashioned values and elegant manners. Photo please. Box No 5289

EASTER Bunnies, hop into my warren and let a charming 5'10" 36 yr old share his Cadbury's creme egg and spoil you even more! Photo ensures reply. London/Surrey area. Please Reply to Box No 5281

EDUCATED presentable fully active and vigorous near-70 n/s, options open, longs to meet attractive under-60 lady (widow or divorcee?) for lasting affectionate companionship. Would re-locate. S.England. Exchange photo plse Box 5107

ELIGIBLE man, 30, seeks special young lady to share life's adventures. Photo appreciated. Birmingham. Box No 4888

ENTREPRENEUR and bon vivant (40) of independent financial means wishes to indulge successful career lady and enjoy the finer things in life, cooking, sailing, arts, travel etc. Plse reply to Box No 5351

EVERYTHING but the girl! Successful professional Asian mid 30's cosmopolitan tall fit. Comfortable with myself and also good company. I have a wide variety of cultural and sporting interests. Would you like to meet me? Please Reply to Box No 5005

EXPERIENCED traveller invites attractive young ladies to join him on country walks most parts U.K. Box No 5297

FALSE Start has left very kind and nice, tall, quite sexy and ultra intelligent rich and successful young man (33) with half a child to love and be loved by, but no woman. Not to be discouraged WLTM intelligent, kind, sexy, child loving woman to fall in love with. Please Reply to Box No 5065

FARMYARD COCK needs something to crow about. Seeks slim, attractive 'Hen,' any age or breed, with GSOH, with whom to enjoy finer things in life. London/East Anglia. Photo plse. Box No 4997

FUN-LOVING, sporty, wealthy, 36 year old Company Director, looking for attractive air stewardess aged 20-30 to spoil & amuse. Photo's will be returned.Reply Box No 5166

GENTLE confident articulate man, Doctor 29, attractive, extrovert, enjoys arts, culture, countryside WLTM warm, sexy, accomplished woman, same age to share same wavelength. Northants/London. Reply with photo if poss to Box No 5091

GENTLEMAN, 41, 5'8, divorced, 2 children. WLTM slim, attractive sporty n/s lady 28-40 for friendship initially and then maybe more. Single mums welcome. Photo appreciated. ALA. Please Reply to Box No 5055

GENUINE, kind, loving, good-looking, Nottingham male, V. fit 51, slim, 6'0", cultural /sporting interests, grad., professional, fin. secure; WLTM warm, slim, att., n/s lady (35-45) view happiness/wonderful future. Photo plse. Reply to Box 5161

GLOS BASED prof. 34, n/s with GSOH. Interests include outdoor pursuits, conversation and relaxing. Seeks female companion with similar interests. Box No 4993

GENUINE reliable but romantic Country Gentle-man (Widower) mid 60's seeks slim younger beautiful ex fashion model type lady who considers age as only numbers, non working and free to meet regularly. If suited, with a view to re-marriage and sharing life to the full. Many mutual interests. Only persons who are genuinely serious to find a very loving and caring soulmate and living in the Midlands should kindly reply with photo essential to Box No 5282

GLOS male 40's 5'11" slim fit own teeth hair & major organs. WLTM fit slim attractive lady n/s 30-45 WGSOH. Photo app. Please Reply to Box No 5143

HANDSOME hirsute hunk (34) WLTM winsome witty wench 25-42. I am a fit sporty romantic n/s prof. grad. Photo and letter guarantees reply. Midlands Plse Rply to Box 5048

HANDSOME male 26, gorgeous to look at, fun to be with, affectionate and attentive seeks smart, sophisticated older woman. Bristol, anywhere. Please Reply to Box No 5265

HIGHLY successful 35 year old Belfast businessman who is reasonably attractive, sincere and well presented seeks intelligent, beautiful companion 20-35 for lasting relationship. I am willing to travel and shall reply to all letters. Photo please. Write to Box No 5200

I AM a tall dark attractive man feeling slightly neglected. Late forties and would like to share my love of sea, sun, travel, sport and all the good things in life with a similarly minded woman. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No 4986

INTELLIGENT, articulate, good looking 43, loyal, GSOH, very solvent 5'7". Seeks thin or v.slim attractive intelligent sensible lady 28-38. Photo ensures reply. Cheshire. Box No 5339

IS there anybody out there? Are you 29-35 - devastating in all respects - perfection in motion- then read another advert. No, seriously - I'm none of those things! - But I bet we could have some fun. GSOH absolutely essential. Photo really appreciated. Box No 4985

IS there a bright slim tolerant eclectic pretty woman wanting to share TLC out there in Surrey or SE? Warm, witty good looking 50ish professional needs you! Photo please to Box No 4992

KIND warm attractive man slim 5'10" Jewish n/s 40 seeks soulmate of any race. Photo please. Box No 4995

LONDON based tall 49 year old divorced Oxbridge educated Businessman with easy personality WLTM slim sincere passionate English or Oriental lady 30/40 for future Box 5111

MANCHESTER/Lancashire. That's where I am, where are you? I'm 57 and work in music. Elgar moves me, but so does Sting. I love theatre, the movies and Ewood Park. For a day out I'm as happy with Bath as Chatsworth. I'm slim and quiet but I love to laugh. I seek a soulmate to share passions and the dream of a family (and to help me finish the Times crossword). Box 5140

1963 model, bit worn at edges, bodywork in need of attention, smokes a bit, but runs well on Claret. WLTM lady 25-35 in the London/South East area interested in art, history, opera, travel, literature, scuba-diving, *fast cars and photography!* Box No 4996

NORTH. Solvent tall professional semi-fogey nearing 60 seeks younger lady for marriage, children & quiet style in Ascot, travel & home life. Burnt Lloyds name perhaps. Tel. number & photo sensible. All answered Please Reply to Box No 5046

NOTTINGHAM Dr with no patients & 45 years experience craves Britt Ekland look-a-like or similar.Reply Box No 4916

NOVELIST, journalist, family man, lover (all failed) buried in Gloucestershire, craves witty female company. Age is unimportant but I am 54, 6ft tall... with hair, money and dreams still intact. I like travel, wine, water, history and meandering, but most of all I like laughing. I smoke the odd cigar but would give it up for the right woman. Please Reply to Box No 5191

OPTIMISTIC professional male 31 seeks confident woman for cuddles and TLC. Cambridge /South East. Box No 5207

PETER PAN now unacceptably 60 seeks trendy Wendy for formation flight, 40-52 attractive complex free, cultured calm, bringing warmth and glamour to sea coast walks, sailing, socialising, films, food, wine, travel. *Offspring acceptable.* Cent S. Coast. Letter/photo please to Box No 5066

PHILOSOPHER 31 likes books, science, arts seeks intellectual woman for a meeting of minds. ALA. London/SE. Box No 5219

PLANNING AHEAD! Retired Solicitor, widower aged 63, in fair health, wishes next year to spend winter months (Jan to March) in warmer climate (? Algarve) but not alone! Now wishes to meet lady in 50s/early 60s who would like to join him. She should be lively, have happy and placid disposition and enjoy good food and a drink (or 2). I live in SE London/Kent and would like us to get to know each other before planned winter holiday - which hopefully could lead to a long term relationship. Please send details of yourself and current photo to Box No 4987

SERENDIPITY = happy accidents. If you believe in this please write to me at Box No 5172. Single 40+? Tayside, Scotland? I would like to meet lady or gent for wining & dining, theatre trips & walks.

SLIMLINE Brighton-based male journalist, 40, seeks bright, witty, stylish female - doctor, lawyer etc. Cinema, countryside, opera. Photo please to Box No 5087

SOLICITOR, 35, Partner, single, seeks Lady Doctor or similar professional. Please Reply to Box No 5287

SOLITARINESS equates only with loneliness. Public School man. Active, caring, loving, wishes to meet lady 45-60. Photo plse. SE Box No 5357

WORLD CUP RUGBY South Africa the last 2wks, Lady n/s wishing to join 55yo unattached man. Write with photo about yourself to Box No 5011

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SOULMATE, lover & partner. Ideally you will be, as I am, discerning, aware, 55+, in London, with no ties, non-smoking, tallish, slim and good-looking. If you value intellectual, sexual and emotional rapport and are unwilling to settle for mediocrity, please reply with photo. Box No 5148

SOUTH HANTS widower, early 50's, tall, slim, fit and solvent. Enjoys music, theatre, walking, wine and conversation, to name just a few! Seeks the company of a sincere lady with an outgoing personality and sense of fun and adventure for friendship and sharing life's pleasures.Reply to Box No 5201

SPORTY and cultured executive from Scandinavia (30's). Likes travelling, outdoor life, music and dinners. Looks for natural, straight forward and humorous, 25-35 lady for friendship and who knows. Photo. E.Anglia. Please Reply to Box No 4988

SURREY based retired professional 6'1, slim, good looking WLTM active lady 50's. n/s who loves tennis, walking and travel. Able to relax by a log fire, play bridge and enjoy entertaining. Photo please & tel no. to Box No 5070

VERY Good Looking well-travelled, successful business man, 50, 5'9", caring, romantic & living in the countryside (nr. Warks/Worcs border) seeks a beautiful & stylish, well spoken, refined lady, 38-45, who is romantic, caring, tender & loving. Someone very special who can share varied interests from good music, dining out, to log fires & country pursuits and a close, loving relationship. Photo please.Reply Box 5149

V GOOD-LOOKING 6'2" tall, slim, well bred charming man, 40's enjoys sport, travel, history, the arts seeks kind attractive spontaneous female 34-42 with integrity, to love forever. London/anywhere. ALA.Photo app. Reply to Box No 5232

GENTLEMAN 70+ healthy active affectionate seeks similar gentleman 60ish living alone under 20 miles Cambridge to visit, hope close mutual friendship. Box No 4989

PROF. male, 28, B'ham based, n/s, 5'9", dark, handsome, cultured, intelligent and refined, with romantic, tender-hearted 'big baby' type personality, seeks a lovely young lady with traditional values, a heart of gold, but also a good brain - view to romance! Photo preferred, but ALA - from anywhere! Reply Box No 5159

PROFESSIONAL, black, Christian gentleman divorced, 47yrs old, tall & handsome. Interests: music, concerts, wining & dining. Seeks attractive lady, betwwen 30-45, any nationality for friendship. London /Surrey.Reply to Box No 3294

SPIRITUAL Libra lady 32-42 with style anywhere sought by romantic Leo with GSOH no ties and a taste for life. *Please* Reply to Box No 3226

STAFFS /Midlands prof. Attractive, fit, active, slim, young 50 gsoh seeks similar female 35/45 view to romance /holidays Please Reply to Box No 3181

SUCCESSFUL Parisian 36, attractive, tall, n/s, intelligent, romantic, sincere, passionate, stylish. Interests food, wine, skiing, travel. Seeks genuine attractive, professional /executive successful lady 30-48 for lasting romance. Photo please. London/country.Box 3180

SURREY/HANTS based successful Public Sch. Graduate, 51, extensively travelled. Faithful, sensitive & tactile. Own business, semi-rtd, enjoys a full life with golf, sailing, bridge, theatre, ballet, most music, good food & wine but needs that special someone. Seeks attractive well educated lady (40's-50's) with style, GSOH & spirit as long term companionable soul mate for lots of TLC to share all or some of above and life's future pleasures & problems. I know you're out there somewhere ?? Photo [illegible] returned. Reply to Box No [illegible]

SURREY based professional, newly single, own business, n/s, late 40's seeks special slim elegant sensuous lady 30-45 for fun, outings, holidays etc. If you want lots of T.L.C. Apply (photo appreciated). Box No 3065

TALL, slim, Staffs. based gent, 39, enjoys countryside, conversation, humour, seeks warm-hearted, intelligent lady, 28-35. Please reply to Box No 3066

TALL slim handsome divorced professional Cheshire male 37 attractive lifestyle seeks stylish out-going lady for friendship.

TOO good to be true? 49yr old retired City business man divorced n/s GSOH good-looking wealthy and enjoys most things. What else could a woman want? Are you 30-40, attractive, sexy, uncomplicated and looking for excitment in 1995? Photo appreciated. *Please Reply* to Box No 2946

UPSCALED FRENCH Professional Gentleman, single, very good looking, tall and fit, late 30's, good standard of living, varied cultural musical and outdoor interests. Is looking for an upscaled, educated, pretty lady n/s mid 20's to mid 30's London based for possible friendship, or relationship. Recent photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3322

WARM hearted Asian Businessman (46) fond of travelling, restaurant, theatre, cinema based in Paris London searching for a soul mate aged 30-50 for friendship and love. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3320

WIDELY travelled, independent City Banker (42) likes outdoors books movies music. Seeks fun-loving attractive woman (28-38) to enjoy life with in London and abroad. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 3201

YOUNG mid 30's Company Director, sporty etc. Looking for someone GSOH 20-30yrs to squander money on & enjoy life. Please send photo which will be returned.Box No 3251

GENTLEMEN

EXCEPTIONAL GENTLEMAN
With a realistic approach towards life, based in London and access to materialistic dreams, needs a girlfriend.
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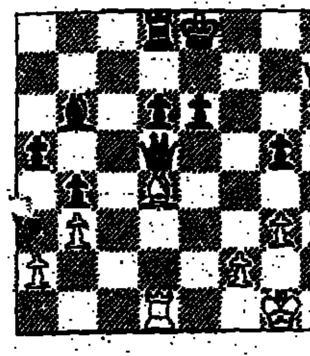
GAMES

by Raymond Keene

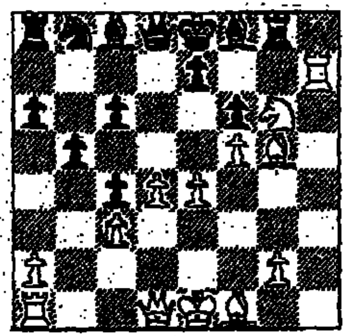
OVER RECENT weeks I have set two tough puzzles in the daily column and invited reader entries. The first position arose in a game from the recently concluded tournament in Linares, Spain, between the former Russian grandmaster Alexander Khalifman and our own Nigel Short. This was a singularly difficult nut to crack. At some point in the game Khalifman missed a clear win, but it was hidden in a thicket of moves and variations and the art of attaining the correct answer lay in pin-pointing the exact moment when the decisive blow was overlooked. I was most gratified that more than 60 of you wrote in and that, of those, virtually everyone homed in unerringly on the key moment.

White: Alexandra Khalifman
Black: Nigel Short
Linares, 1995



The decisive moment occurred after Black's 36th move. Khalifman played 37 Qg7 and the game ended as a draw. He should have played the brilliant 37 Bf6! when after 37 ... Qxd1+ 38 Kh2 Black has no defence to the mate threat on e7, as 38 ... Rd7 allows 39 Qg8 mate. Alternatively he can try the desperate 37 ... Bxf2+ but after 38 Kh2 Bxg3+ 39 Kxg3 Black is left without a sensible check. After much deliberation I have awarded the signed copy of *Nigel Short World Chess Challenger* to Bill Beasley of London N17.

The next puzzle occurred in the game Rogers – Enqvist from the tournament at Gausdal earlier this year.



Here Black resigned and I asked readers to suggest the most convincing line of play for White after the obvious capture 15 ... fxg5. I also asked whether it was, indeed, appropriate for Black to capitulate in this position. The best analysis came from John Bartram of London N8 who demonstrated that after 15 ... fxg5 16 Qh5 Black can still resist with 16 ... Qa5 and, indeed, that in the game, Black's resignation was more than premature. Mr Bartram too will be receiving a chess book, namely *Garry Kasparov's Chess Puzzle Book*. Congratulations to all of you who wrote in on both positions with some truly excellent analysis. Everybody will, in due course, receive a complimentary copy of the *British Chess Magazine* as a reward for your efforts.

Finally this week another win by a team member against a British grandmaster in the simultaneous display for the Save the Children charity which I covered two weeks ago.

White: Michael Stean
Black: Richard Fries
Simultaneous Display, Royal Automobile Club, London, March 1995

King's Indian Defence

1	d4	Nf6	2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	Bg7	4	e4	d6
5	Nf3	0-0	6	h3	e5
7	d5	Nbd7	8	Bg5	h6
9	Be3	Nh5	10	Nd2	a6
11	h4	Qe8	12	Be2	Nf4
13	Bf3	f5	14	Qc2	Nc5
15	0-0-0	Nfd3+	16	Kb1	Nb4

White resigns
After 17 Qc1 Ncd3 White's queen is "checkmated".

By Raymond Keene

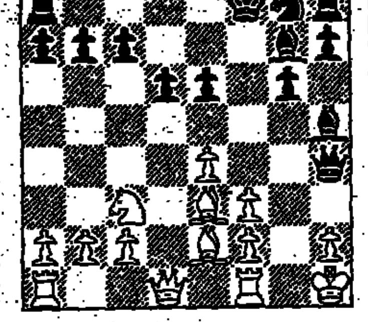
This position is from the game Dorfman - Romanishin, USSR, 1977.

How does Black, to play, break through the weakened White defences on the kingside?

Send your answers on a postcard to *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a British Chess Magazine publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Last week's solution: 1 Rh5

Last week's winners: C Gray, Stanwell, Middlesex; B Piper, London; A Lutyens, Oban, Argyll.



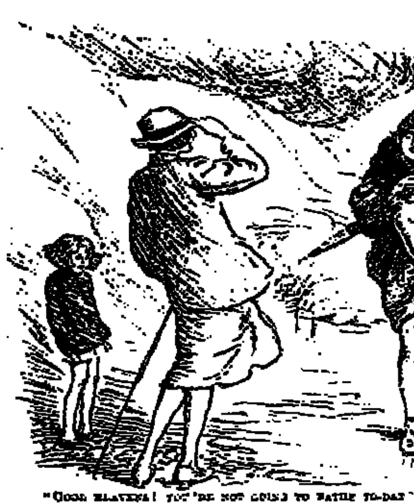
PUNCHLINE

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon on the right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

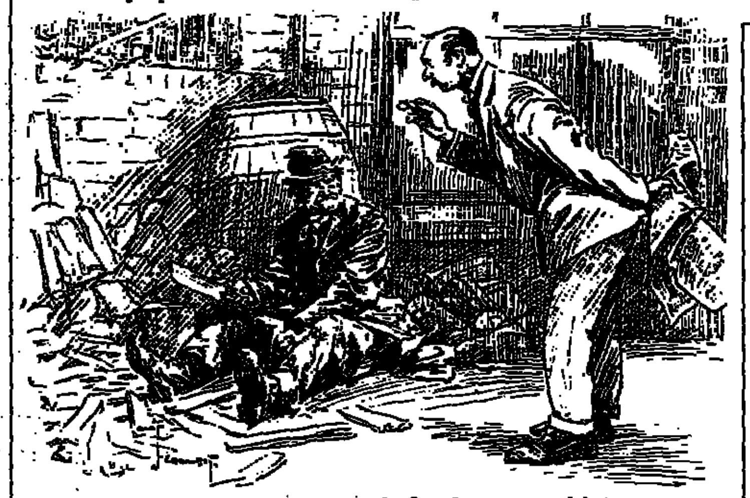
The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon Caption 52, *Weekend Games Page, The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday April 12.



"GOOD HEAVENS! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BATHE TO-DAY?"
"GRACIOUS, NO. BILL'S GOING TO PHOTOGRAPH ME BASKING ON THE ROCKS AT [illegible] FOR THE HOLIDAY BEAUTY COMPETITION."



"So, NOW are you ready for the party whip?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by A. J. Bloor of Canterbury, Kent

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ISPAGHUL
a. A medicinal plantain
b. A Tolkien werewolf
c. An Assyrian archer

KEN
a. An amiable simpleton
b. To go ferreting
c. A game of forfeits

LOSSY
a. Losing electricity
b. A breed of sheepdog
c. Derivative trading

MISO
a. A board game
b. A hated object
c. Soya paste

Answers on page 16

COMPUTER GAMES

SOME games you too eagerly await. When you eventually get your hands on them, disappointment seems inevitable. The old Maxis game "Sim Ant" is such a title. The idea of an electronic ant colony had always appealed, and now it has been re-released as a Sim Classic. However, it turns out to be an ant hill riddled with shortcomings. Sadly, the job of overseeing the fortunes of this insect colony is undemanding, and the game play too limited.

By contrast, nine months of hoping that Microprose's new title "Pizza Tycoon" would prove worthy have paid off. This delicious business sim challenges your mathematic, artistic and culinary skills, and will certainly stand the test of time. The base for "Pizza Tycoon" is a well-designed game engine; the topping a generous helping of humour. Microprose proves time and again that it is gaming quality rather than quantity which matters. While some hugely disappointing games come on ten or more floppy discs, "Pizza Tycoon" comes on two but delivers admirably.

Microprose's "Pizza Tycoon"

The scenario seems straightforward: rent a restaurant, stock and staff it, design your pizza menu and wait for punters. If, as a restaurateur, you mix a successful recipe you'll soon become a global pizza billionaire. If not, then the only mixing to be done involves petty criminals and helpings of porridge.

The game starts when you pick one of several cities around the world. Having found affordable premises to rent, you ring the estate agent and sign on the dotted line. Next, buy an oven, tables and chairs, then set them out to your liking. Add a pinch of customer-enticing luxuries — plants, indoor fountains, jukeboxes — and then take one chef and a waiter from a pool of available staff, ensuring they have ability, health, trustworthiness and potential. Additionally, you can add a manager to oversee the day-to-day business.

Top the whole thing off by designing the first four basic pizzas and open for business. Designing pizzas is a surprisingly rewarding pastime and the graphics are good enough to have you hankering after slices of the real thing. Success is represented in financial reports and bar charts, but the quickest indication of how you are doing comes in the number of animated characters sitting at your tables. Unlike the people in some games, the punters are engaging and you'll find yourself caring about their opinions.

The game's only letdown comes when your pizza empire is established and you have money pouring in, for all you can spend your profits on is more restaurants. Perhaps the chance to buy the exotic trappings of great wealth wouldn't have gone amiss — a yacht, a plane or a small Caribbean island for starters.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

IN A competitive auction, knowing whether to bid one more, to pass or to double is something which only comes with experience. But in recent years an analytical tool for these situations has had a lot of publicity. It is the so-called "Law of Total Tricks", first noted by the Frenchman Jean-Rene Vernes and publicised by Larry Cohen in his book, *To Bid or Not to Bid — The Law of Total Tricks*. Its devotees always refer to the idea simply as "The Law".

The Law's basic premise is that on any deal the total number of tricks available is equal to the sum of the number of cards each side has in its best fit. For example, if your side has nine spades and the opposition has eight hearts, there are 17 tricks available. If you can make ten tricks your opponents can only make seven.

It is remarkable how accurate this simple notion seems to be. It is certainly unusual for it to be more than one trick out.

See if you can apply the method to this hand. You are South, and your partner deals at love all, match-pointed pairs.

♠AQ842 ♥32 ♦K43 ♣A73

You hear this auction:

W	N	E	S
—	1♥	Pass	1♠
3♣[1]	3♠	5♣	?

[1] Weak

What do you bid? This is the analysis The Law suggests. Your partner has probably got four spades, your left-hand opponent six clubs and your right-hand opponent four clubs. So your side has nine spades and the opposition has ten clubs: this implies that the total number of tricks available on the deal is 19. Hence, if you are making 11 tricks, the opposition will only be making eight. Therefore, it is clear to double, as if you are making Five Spades (11 tricks) you will be getting 500 out of Five Clubs Doubled. Unfortunately, my partner elected to bid on, with a poor result.

This was the full deal:

```
          ♠9753
          ♥AKQ106
          ♦Q862
          ♣—
♠KJ6        N      ♠10
♥75       W   E    ♥J984
♦95         S      ♦AJ107
♣QJ10842           ♣K965
          ♠AQ842
          ♥32
          ♦K43
          ♣A73
```

Contract: Five Spades by South.
Lead: the queen of clubs.

Five Spades went one off with Five Clubs going for 500. I suppose someone might say, that was not the prediction of The Law — if North-South are making ten tricks, East-West should be making nine. This is an area where you'll find the disciples of The Law bring in all sorts of subsidiary "fixes". In this case, as the ace of clubs was useless in Five Spades, that explains why when East-West are going three off North-South were still going one off. However, The Law got it right to within one trick.

There are several corollaries of The Law, which many experts would agree with merely from their own experience. One is the level to which you should bid in low-level competitive auctions — it works out that it is always correct to bid at least to the level of your fit. That is, you can bid up to the two level with an eight-card fit, the three level with a nine-card fit and the four level with a ten-card fit.

Take the case where you and your partner are known to have a nine-card fit. The opponents are bound to have at least an eight-card fit. Hence, as on this deal there are 17 tricks, if your side bids to the three level and goes down, (that is, making eight tricks or less) it follows that the opponents could have made at least nine tricks.

A common situation is one in which you estimate both sides have an eight-card fit. With your opponents vulnerable you pick up:

♠J93 ♥Q86 ♦A743 ♣A53

You have to make a bid in this auction:

W	N	E	S
—	—	1♦	1♥
1♠	2♥	3♣[1]	Pass
Pass	?		

[1] At least five clubs

In a world championship match an American player unwisely bid Three Hearts, which went two down when Three Clubs would certainly have failed.

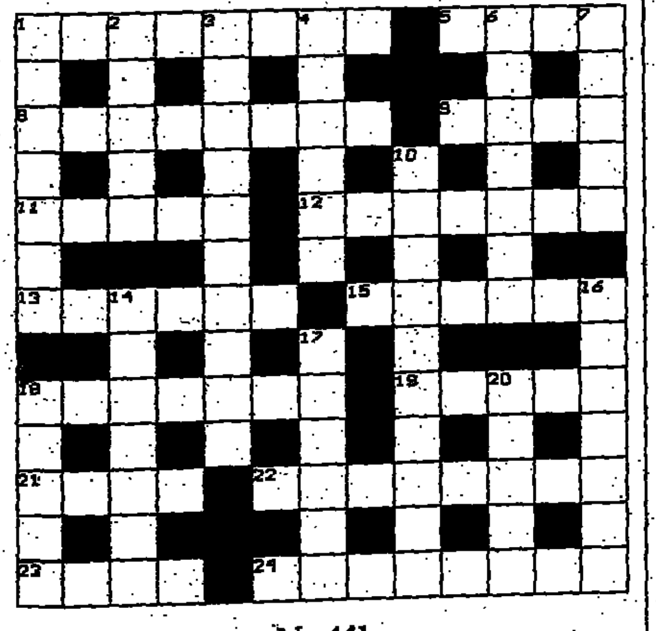
The full deal was:

Dealer East   EW game   IMP's

```
          ♠J93
          ♥Q86
          ♦A743
          ♣A53
♠K8754      N      ♠A2
♥A74      W   E    ♥105
♦1052       S      ♦QJ86
♣104               ♣KQ972
          ♠Q106
          ♥KJ932
          ♦K9
          ♣J86
```

The correct way of thinking according to The Law is: (i) North-South are unlikely to have more than eight hearts — with six hearts South would have bid over Three Clubs (in itself a "Law" decision); (ii) East-West won't have more than eight clubs — West would have raised with a good fit. Thus, there are only 16 tricks available, and so if North-South are making nine tricks in hearts, East-West will only make seven in clubs; in that case, passing Three Clubs will produce adequate compensation for the part-score. In practice, it works out that when there are only 16 trumps, you should never outbid the opponents at the Three level.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 441

ACROSS
1 Fail to make impression (3,2,3)
5 Cooperating group (4)
8 Ship's biscuit (4,4)
9 Brush against lightly (4)
11 Chap, fellow (slang) (5)
12 Portable light; long, thin (jaw) (7)
13 Move very quietly (6)
15 Canny (6)
18 Fast; a Shakespearean Mistress (7)
19 Wives and concubines together (5)
21 Exam, no paper (4)
22 Talk angrily and incoherently (8)
23 So be it (4)
24 Unshod (8)

DOWN
1 Live together (7)
2 Trunk of body (5)
3 Registered as a member (2,3,5)
4 Noisy laughter; cut it for silence (6)
6 Superstitiously-feared look (4,3)
7 Elementary particle, cements nucleus (5)
10 Paid by the management (2,3,5)
14 An archbishop; a monkey (7)
16 Blameworthy conduct (7)
17 Short-sightedness (6)
18 Amount of work assigned (5)
20 Proportion (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 440
ACROSS: 1 On the ropes 9 Anarchy 10 Chair 11 Tilt 12 Beriberi 14 Rudder 15 Meagre 18 Southpaw 20 Fair 22 Astir 23 Awakens 24 Dirty linen
DOWN: 2 Nick 3 Hoyden 4 Receiver 5 Plane 6 Service dress 7 Easter Island 8 Fabled 13 Lethargy 16 Goatee 17 Salami 19 Utter 21 Jade

CROSSWORD BOOKS: The Times Concise Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each). NEW The Times Two Crossword, Book 2 £3.99. The Books 3,4,5,6,7 £4.50 each. NEW The Times Two Crossword, Concise Book £5.99. The Times Times Jumbo Crosswords (Books 1 & 2 £5.99 each). Books 14 to 19 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords (Books 1 to 13 £4.99 each). Books 10,11,12 & 13 £4.50 each. The Sunday Times Crosswords — (Book 1 £4.99). Books [illegible] NEW Book 4 £3.99. Except the items in brackets. Concise: Books 1,2,3 £4.50 each. NEW Book [illegible] for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers — software available for all titles for IBM PCs and Acorn Archimedes computers — The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6. The Sunday Price £14.95 each — also The Times Computer Crosswords Vols 1 to 6 and The Times Jubilee Edition. The Sunday Times Mephisto Crosswords.
Prices inc p&p (UK delivery to eight days). Cheques with order payable to Akom Ltd. 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW. Tel 0181-852 4575 (24 hrs). No credit cards.

THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3300: Hangover by Plausus

All clues apart from one are normal. Unclued lights are thematic. Clashes will be found in some squares and are to be resolved *symbolically* within the squares themselves. Then taken as a whole with the one light (only partially clued) they should lead the solver from its subsidiary part — via the title — to the completion of outstanding squares.

Chambers 1993 recommended for all words including one abbreviation and one prefix but not three proper names.

ACROSS
6. Groundbait for Pacific salmon (China) (4)
9. Pursuer of "dicky" husband of schemer (4)
11. High priest "eld" glance (3)
14. Boxes on the retreat earning three points for Hebrew (5)
15. No outsiders at morning reception — she'd appear the time before (3)
16. In France who almost kept secret Anglo-indian settler? (5)
20. Burning vessel shows neat floundering (4)
23. Very long attack (6)
24. Chinese grass revealing ostrich (4)
25. I mark page to be broadcast that's unsuitable for Shakespeare (6)
27. Male arrives at the start of yoking? Indeed (5)
28. My time for meat (5)
33. Money in Bucharest will provide a garland (3)
35. My cat's tail dropped off body (6)
37. Ichthyolatrous composer (6)
40. A room hired out to band (6)
41. Regain new ground for rebel (7)
43. Run down corrupt evil Saudi — one gone! (8)
47. Gutted tasty sharp-beaked fish (5)
48. I leave 25 — it's unequal at the start (5)
49. The old want the doctor's treatment (5)
50. Aborigine's but's half destroyed: front quarters smelling — rotten smell (5)
51. Think highly of telling off dog! Rot! (4)
52. Condyle spinal deformity. Have it off! (4)

DOWN
2. What has developed empurpling in secondary stages? (4)
3. The actress is heard speaking? Albeit Royal Academy (5)
4. Second son cut down white poplar (4)
5. Again seduce vicar and a politician? (6)
7. Loot to transport by road (4)
8. A second month for more cloth (6)
9. Past stale crumbs of Genoa (5)
10. Biggles' chum making a brief appearance in N Africa (3)
12. Straight line in open country that's fallow (3)
13. Ill's I'm up to — to so exist? (7)
18. Sweetfish are rising here? (4)
19. Grass led nark astray but a thousand's gone missing (6)
21. Then admitting in the States those . . . (3)
22. . . . from outremer? Not true, in a way. It's a foreign measure (4)
26. Wake-Robin! Alice's heading a strange person (4)
28. Expressionless Scottish maid clad in gray (6)
30. Down under on edge, restless getting up. Still there's nothing in it (4)
32. Banger in packing case (5)
34. In Ireland fine heather's twisted roots hard (6)
36. New Zealand conifer encircled by rugged Alp flower (7)
38. Mark an area of Orcadian land with this? (6)
39. Charnel's destruction of a rare tree (7)
41. Smallish enclosed areas of filletted in mutton pieces (9)
42. Smooth well-kept car fittings inside and out (4)
43. King beneath princesses (3)
44. Sleek fawn (5)
45. Mignonette wild in heart of garden and borders of estates (6)
46. Case that's quite complicated but there's no query (4)

Statistics relating to 1994 crosswords are now available to senders of an sae (from overseas, stamp exempt) to J.E. Green, 31 Bishopric Court, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1TJ

B	A	R	A	P	A	I	R	D	U	E	T	S
O	N	E	B	A	D	I	E	U	X	R	A	H
T	A	L	L	B	O	Y	P	O	M	E	L	O
H	P	I	U	P	W	E	E	T	A	B	A	U
O	R	C	T	O	N	M	A	A	D	U	A	L
R	O	S	I	L	Y	P	L	I	E	S	A	D
I	N	V	O	K	E	E	S	P	U	L	Y	E
S	S	S	N	E	A	R	R	A	C	I	E	R
A	R	E	A	D	C	O	D	U	E	P	A	S
T	E	N	R	N	E	R	A	L	T	E	Y	T
I	N	D	Y	A	D	E	N	T	I	C	E	R
O	V	A	D	A	I	M	I	O	O	A	I	A
N	Y	L	O	N	A	C	O	R	N	C	U	P

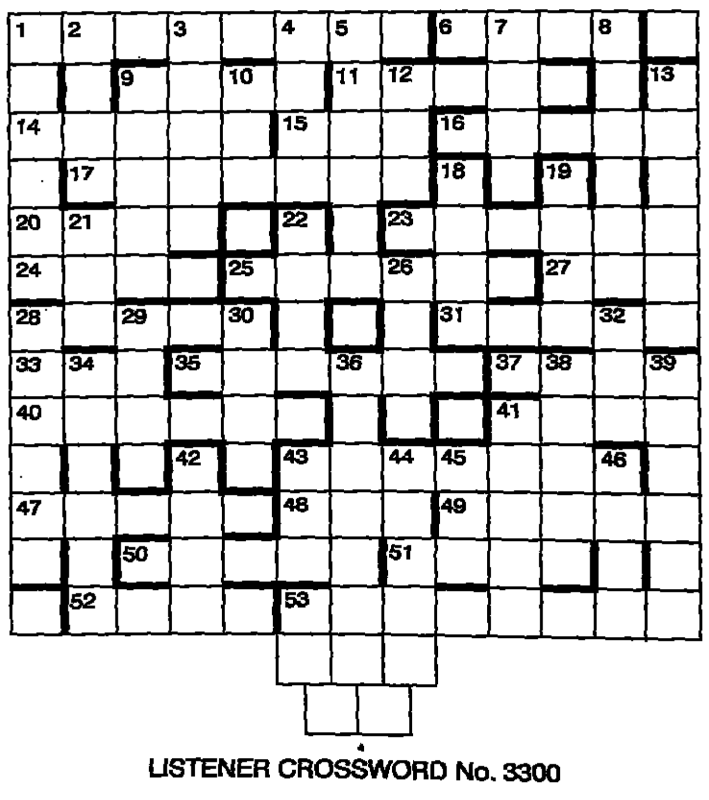
Solution and Notes to No. 3297: Musical Chairs by Elefa

"Picture you upon my knee (shaded in appropriate shape) TEA for TWO, and TWO for TEA"

Clues: 10A BRICK for TWO or TWAIN. 21A: CAPER for TWO etc. 35A: TEA for TWO. 45A BEEF for PAIR. 4D: BREW for BOTH. 29D: CHAR for DUAL. 35D: INDIAN for COUPLE.

Grid: 1AC: BARATHEA. 6AC: SAGES. 22A AMATE. 40A: INMATE. 1D: HERBORISATION. 6D: TEAT. 16D: MACHINATION

The **winner** was Adrian Budd, of Uplyme, Lyme Regis, Dorset. The *runners-up* were B.M. Holland, of south-west London, and the Rev David Lamb, of Isleworth, Middlesex.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No. 3300

NAME ....

ADDRESS ....

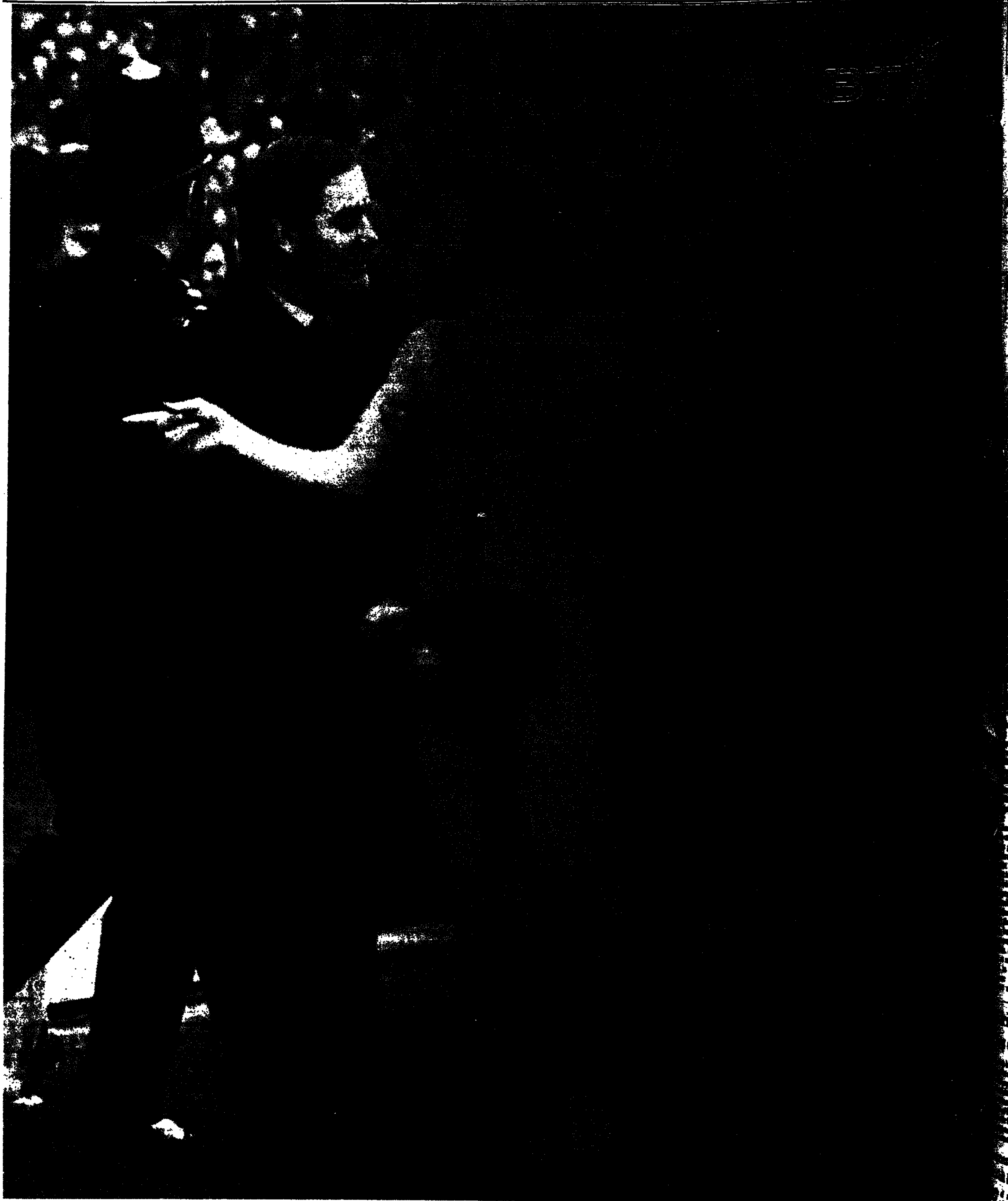
....

....

POSTCODE ....

PRIZES: Book tokens worth £50 will go to the winner. The two runners-up will each win £20 book tokens.

ADDRESS: Readers should cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above, to The Listener Crossword 3300, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire, AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, April 20.



It’s 1 to remember

20th April, 1974 was an eventful day for the spectators at Twickenham. Easter Sunday, 16th April, 1995 is Phoneday.

An equally memorable day for Britain’s telecommunications.

To meet the ever-increasing demand, a 1 is being added after the initial 0 of all UK area codes.

Rather like the letter that was added to car registrations, this will create millions of new numbers.

However, demand in Bristol, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham [illegible]

PHONE[illegible]

Bristol (0272) xxxxxx becomes (0117) 9xx xxxx. **Leeds** (0532) xxxxxx becomes [illegible]
Nottingham (0602) xxxxxx becomes (0115) 9xx xxxx. [illegible]

هكذا من [illegible]